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HISTORICAL SKETCHES  
OF THE  
N. Y. BIBLE SOCIETY

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History of the New York  
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# HISTORY

OF THE

## ✓ NEW YORK BIBLE SOCIETY,

FROM ITS ORIGIN IN 1823 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

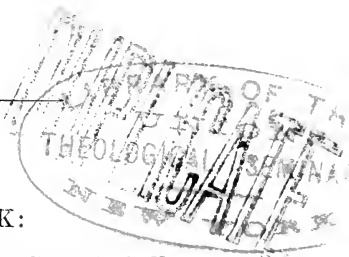
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By ALEXANDER WATSON.

COMPILED CHIEFLY FROM THE RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY, BY  
REQUEST OF ITS OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

NEW YORK:

ANSON D. F. RANDOLPH, 683 BROADWAY.

1858.





## PREFACE.

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The following brief record of the origin and growth of the New York Bible Society was undertaken, as stated in its title, at the request of the Officers and Managers of that society.

It was originally intended to form an appendix to the thirty-fourth Annual Report, but, although condensed in its details as closely as seemed at all compatible with tolerable clearness of statement, it unavoidably grew to such a length as to preclude its publication with the report.

The Printing and Publishing Committee of the Board, to whose judgment, in connection with some additional members *pro tem.*, the matter and mode of publication was referred, by their Chairman, C. A. Davison, Esq., recommended that it be issued in the form in which it is now presented; as calculated not only to interest the numerous friends of the society, but also to form in some sense a manual of information, particularly for new members of the board, who, under the peculiar limitations of the 6th article of the constitution, come in annually, and not unfrequently constitute a pretty large proportion of the whole number of managers.

Most of the statements of fact have been derived from the official records of the society, but for the circumstances pre-

ceding its organization the compiler is indebted to Messrs. Frederick Bull, and Walter M. Smith, Esquires; while a few extraneous facts referred to in connection with its early history have been derived from Annual Reports of the American Bible Society, files of the New York Observer, and a volume of the Missionary Register.

The various items that are inserted somewhat out of their regular order of time will be found included in brackets, to distinguish them from the current narrative.

The spirit of prayerful and unselfish devotion to the Master's work, which crops out everywhere in the records of the society, constitutes the strong primitive basis of its entire organization. This at first interested the writer in perusing the details of its work, and has made the preparation of this unambitious sketch a labour of love. Should it prove in any degree useful, the reward of that labour will be complete.

For the opinions implied or incidentally expressed in the work, the compiler, so far as he is aware, is alone responsible. The normal relations of Principal (or Parent, though the word is infelicitous) and Auxiliary, in all voluntary associations for the purposes of Christian benevolence, is a matter of deep and general interest to the Christian community; and the convictions expressed at the close of this narrative, in reference to the arrangement equitable and desirable for this society, extend equally to all other similar societies in healthful existence; and the practical recognition of the principles involved in them is viewed as essential to the happiest and most efficient action in every great department of associated Christian effort.



HISTORY  
OF THE  
NEW YORK BIBLE SOCIETY.

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1823.

THIS society, originally known as the "Young Men's New York Bible Society," like most of the important benevolent enterprises of our age, sprang out of an awakened religious feeling in the community in which it had its birth.

At the opening of the year 1822, an interesting and powerful work of Divine grace was in progress in one of the largest and most influential Presbyterian Churches in the city (the Rev. Dr. Spring's), which, having commenced early in the winter, continued through the spring of that year, extending, in a greater or less degree, to other churches and congregations. As the first-fruits of this outpouring of God's Spirit, about one hundred members were added to the church first alluded to, at two successive communion seasons, while to others many additions were also made.

The effect of such a visitation of the Holy Spirit was very apparent in causing an unusual activity in the religious life of the city.

In the summer the yellow fever prevailed to an alarming extent, so that below Beekman Street the citizens left their homes and places of business to avoid it. On their return in the autumn, measures were taken to interest the young men of the city in the cause of the Bible.

In the spring of 1823 the then existing New York Bible Society, taking into consideration the circumstance that no Bible association existed in this city which enlisted the active exertions of young men exclusively, proposed the formation of a Young Men's Bible Society, to be auxiliary to them. With this view they appointed a committee, of which John R. Hurd, Esq., was chairman. Upon reflection and conference it was determined to invite a number of young men from the different evangelical churches to meet at the house of Mr. Hurd, in White Street, for general consultation and action.

At this meeting, composed perhaps entirely of Sabbath school teachers, it was resolved to form a Young Men's Bible Society; and after further consultation, and the preparation of a constitution, and list of officers, circulars were issued calling a public meeting in a school-room in Thames Street, on the 22d September, 1823.

On this occasion, John R. Hurd, Esq., presided, and Mr. Anthony P. Halsey was chosen secretary. The

meeting was addressed by clergymen and laymen of different religious denominations, and it was unanimously determined to form the proposed Young Men's New York Bible Society. A Constitution, giving effect to this decision, was read by the chairman, and adopted.

The chairman also submitted a list of names of officers and managers, who were by resolution declared elected. The following are the names of the officers :

*President* . . . . . HORATIO GILLET.

*Vice Presidents.*

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. ANTHONY P. HALSEY, | 4. LOUIS KING,   |
| 2. GEORGE COLGATE,    | 5. HENRY BENNETT,  |
| 3. JOHN NEILSON, JR., | 6. JOSEPH SANDS, (in place of<br>Fred. T. Peet, who declined.) |

*Secretaries.*

FREDERICK BULL, Corresponding.

FREDERICK A. GUION, Recording, (who served one month, and exchanged positions with Mr. Geo. A. Bartow, who became first Recording Secretary.)

*Treasurer* . . . . . SILAS M. BUTLER.

Of the managers elected at this time, several formally declined, and several others resigned within a few months ; their places were filled with some apparent difficulty ; one seat at least, after a second or third resignation of its incumbent, remaining vacant until the close of the year 1824.

[The original constitution adopted at this meet-

ing has been amended at various times, in accommodation to the changed relations of the society, consequent upon the dissolution of its first Parent Society, and other circumstances. The principal alterations were made in 1832 and 1849. In the former year, by inserting the words "without note or comment," in the 2d article; and by increasing the number of managers to forty, dividing them into two classes, securing the annual expiration of the terms of service of one half the Board. In 1840 the 2d article was amended, by omitting the words "to engage the co-operation of young persons in;" thus in effect changing the declared object of the society. As a necessary consequence, article 3d was omitted, and no more auxiliaries sought. The age of eligibility was also changed (article 6th), by making "twenty-one" and "forty" the minimum and maximum, instead of "eighteen" and "thirty-five." In 1854 the 6th article was again amended, by increasing the number of managers to "fifty."—(See Document A., Appendix.)]

The Board of Managers, having been directed by the society to hold their first meeting on Thursday, the 25th instant, met on that day, the President, Horatio Gillet, in the chair, and appointed committees to prepare by-laws, and to obtain a suitable depository for Bibles, &c.

[This first meeting of the Board of Managers was opened by reading the Scriptures, but the mode of closing is not stated. It however became the cus-

tom to open and close with reading the Scriptures, but the first meeting of each new Board was opened with prayer.

In August, 1839, it was resolved in future to close the meetings of the Board with prayer, which practice still continues, generally followed by the doxology.

Throughout the whole course of the Society's existence, the meetings of its Board of Managers have been well attended; members absenting themselves from several consecutive meetings without rendering an excuse were cut off by a stringent by-law, which has of late been so modified as to require a vote of the Board for the actual excision of a member.]

At a meeting held October 16th, 1823, a committee was appointed to nominate standing committees; and the "president and secretary" were authorized to purchase 100 Bibles "for the use of the members," to be placed in care of the secretary until a depository was provided. At this time a grant by the American Bible Society of the free use of a room in the Bible House, Nassau Street, "for the meetings of the Board," was also reported. At the meeting in November (13th), the committee reported five standing committees (see Document C, Appendix,) and the store of Mr. J. P. Havens as a depository for Bibles, &c.

The society, thus organized and prepared for duty, seems to have stood for a time, like the la-

bourers in the market-place, at a loss, and waiting for employment. The field in which they had expected to work appeared to be already full of labourers; and almost the first thing discovered, when they attempted to begin was, that the workmen were in one another's way. There were four, if not five, Bible societies already in active existence, besides various ward Bible associations, the New York S. S. Union, and the New York City Tract Society; each of which was doing at least a part of the work which a young men's Bible society might be well adapted to perform.

These societies were as follows, viz.:

1. The "American Bible Society," formed May 8th, 1816.
2. The "New York Female Auxiliary Bible Society," formed May 11th, 1816.
3. The "Marine Bible Society," formed March 12th, 1817.
4. The "New York Bible Society," formed in 1819 by a union of the "New York Bible Society," established in 1809, with the "Auxiliary New York Bible Society," established in 1813, which, previous to their union, had distributed an aggregate of 27,695 volumes, of which 1,588 were New Testaments. It was recognized as auxiliary by the American Bible Society in February, 1820.
5. The "Young Ladies' New York Bible Society," formed —, which became merged in the New York Female B. S. (No. 2), in 1836.

None of these societies seemed quite prepared either to make way for the new organization to work directly, or to accord to it a position higher or more definite than that of a subordinate or aux-

iliary in what was itself really an auxiliary work; viz., the supply of Sabbath schools, through the New York Sunday School Union (chiefly with books for premiums).

Its relation to its parent was defined by the following amendment to the constitution of that society, adopted in November, 1823:

Every member of the *Young Men's Bible Society*, who shall have paid at one time to that society the sum of ten dollars, or who shall have been seven years a member of that society, shall be entitled to a life membership in the New York Bible Society on payment of the further sum of ten dollars; and the President and other officers of the Young Men's New York Bible Society shall be honorary members for the time being of the New York Bible Society, and may attend the meetings of its Board of Managers.

This was kindly done, but did not afford work, which the newly formed society seemed chiefly to desire.

Thus, like a true child of faith, it stood for some months in the attitude of inquiry as to what the Master would have it to do. Its friends probably asked the question aloud in the social intercourse of Christian brethren; for at its December meeting (22d) the following communication was received from the Parent Board:

NOVEMBER 28th, 1823.

MR. FRED'K BULL, *Cor. Sec.*—

SIR:—I communicate the following resolutions, adopted by our Board of Managers at their last meeting:

*Resolved*, That the corresponding secretary be a committee to

devise a plan for furthering the views and desires of the New York Bible Society.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Managers of the Young Men's New York Bible Society be requested to appoint a committee to confer and unite with the aforesaid committee for the aforesaid purpose.

WM. C. MULLIGAN,

*Cor. Sec. N. Y. B. S.*

Whereupon Mr. Bull was appointed a committee on the part of the Board.

### 1824.

In February, (26th) 1824, the distributing committee were directed to obtain and sign printed orders on the depository, for Bibles and Testaments, and distribute some of them among the managers.

In March (25th), the depository was reported to be in the same state as in February, and in April, the same as in March, except the delivery of one Bible.

At the April (22d) meeting, Mr. Bull reported that nothing definite had been done by the committees of conference, and the following resolution, indicating some proper impatience, under what seemed to be coerced inaction, was adopted, May 27th:

*Resolved*, That the following proposal be made to the Board of Managers of the New York Bible Society,—That this society will undertake to supply such Sunday schools of this city with Bibles and Testaments as have hitherto been supplied by the Parent Society.



*Resolved*, That a tender of the personal services of the members of this Board be made to the Parent Society, to aid in the distribution of the Bible, whenever notice shall be given that such services are needed.

While thus seeking for an opening for active labour, its first direct work came to it in the form of two applications which were received at this meeting. One was from the Female S. S., No. 8, through Mr. Russell, (the kind and number of books not stated,) which was granted. The other was an application, reported by Mr. Colgate, as made to Mr. Winterton, in behalf of a tribe of Indians in the western part of the State, for "a supply of Bibles;" and Mr. W. was authorized to draw on the depository for as many as he might deem expedient.

At the meeting of the Board, held August 30th, 1824, the following communication was received through the corresponding secretary :

NEW YORK, *August* 28th, 1824.

MR. GEORGE A. DWIGHT—

DEAR SIR :—I have the pleasure to announce to you that the proposal of your society to undertake to supply such Sunday schools of this city with Bibles and Testaments, as have hitherto been supplied by the Parent Society, has been acceded to by our directors. The discussion to which it gave rise, while it showed the importance of this part of our society's distribution, also gave a favourable view of the sentiments and intentions of yours in relation to it. We have always considered that to supply the Sunday schools was among the best plans to carry into effect the objects of our association; the Board therefore receive, with some degree of solicitude, the application to give up their superintendence of it to your Society: they however finally con-

sented to relinquish it in your favour, and in doing so are fully impressed with the opinion that they yield to you a responsibility of no ordinary character, and a gratification which has been theirs for several years. This gratification is freely transferred, because it is not less the duty, than it should be the wish of our society, to add to the pleasures of their auxiliary institutions. From the present time the Sunday schools of our city will be referred to your managers for Bibles and Testaments, and our committee, hitherto charged with supplying them, will cease to act. These schools will, for some time at least, fully employ your resources. For that reason, as well as for others stated in my interview with you, our managers request that they may be the sole object of your attention. While such an arrangement exists, your attention is directed to a specific object, while ours is given to other claims, without interfering with yours, and with the best effect on our kindred institutions.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM C. MULLIGAN,

*Corresponding Secretary of N. Y. B. S.*

Whereupon the following preamble and resolution, offered by Mr. W. M. Smith, were adopted:

*Whereas* it has been considered expedient that the several Bible societies in this city should have a separate sphere of action, and as this Board have expressed their opinion to that effect, and have proposed to the Parent Society to allow them the right of supplying the Sunday schools of this city, and as said society have consented to allow this Board that part of their duties. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to superintend the furnishing of the Sunday schools, to whom all applications for Bibles and Testaments must be made.

Messrs. Dwight, W. M. Smith, Sands, Gibson, and Russell were appointed said committee.

The work thus seriously committed to the society it set about performing in the manner which seems to have been previously adopted, and for which therefore the Board must not be held responsible. It was a system of working by indirection, of making bestowments at second or third hand; hence we find in September (23d), 1824, that the "S. S. committee had drawn on the depository for 100 Testaments and twenty-five Bibles, for the use of the distributing committee of the New York Sunday School Association."

In October (20th), the S. S. committee report not having drawn on the depository, because it was empty; and the purchasing committee was authorized to obtain fifty Bibles and 200 Testaments.

At the November (11th) meeting, the S. S. committee report these books as placed at the disposal of the "visiting committee," which is supposed to mean the visiting committee of the N. Y. S. S. Union.

[The report of the New York Bible Society, the parent of this society, for 1826, illustrates this unfortunate idiosyncrasy. At its anniversary in that year, a resolution was advocated, and passed, "that it is the incumbent duty of this society to supply the wants of this city." But the report showed, that of the 2,331 volumes, reported as issued during the year, only 345 volumes had been directly disposed of, if even so many; of the rest, 1,870 had been

taken by the Young Men's Bible Society, and 116 by other city Bible associations.]

At the first anniversary of the society, held at the City Hotel, November 22d, 1824, Henry Bennett, Esq., was made President; George Colgate, Joseph Sands, Wm. Winterton, Frederick A. Guion, Oliver E. Cobb, and Henry E. Thomas, Vice Presidents; Geo. A. Dwight, Corresponding Secretary; Marinus Willett, Jr., Recording Secretary, (on the resignation of Mr. Bartow,) and Walter M. Smith, Treasurer.

The names of the managers chosen at this anniversary are not given in the minutes.

### 1825.

In January, 1825, a communication was received from the New York Female Auxiliary B. S., containing a request that the Board would examine and supply the necessities of the sixth ward; upon which it was resolved, "that the subject be laid before the Board of the Parent Society, and that they be requested to inform us what measures they have adopted with respect to visitations in the various parts of the city." No further mention is made of this first proposition to engage directly in the work of supplying the destitute; and so far as can be learned, the only direct labour at this time was a limited distribution by members of the Board.

In the summer of 1825, a committee was appointed to devise means to enlarge the funds of the

society; and their report, presented July 6th, is as follows:

The committee appointed to devise means to enlarge the funds of the society respectfully report: That they have given to the subject the consideration due to its importance, and are fully of opinion that the first care of the Board should be to engage the co-operation of the numerous Sabbath school teachers of this city; inasmuch as, generally considered, their feelings are alive to any object tending to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, and consequently must be highly favourable to the spread of the Holy Scriptures. Added to this, the fact of their being almoners of our bounty must unite their hearts to us by a tie of no ordinary nature. We are not merely working together in the same cause, but are immediately acting together, and aiding each other, and breaking and cultivating the same spot. We are supplying the seed; they are scattering it; and we are both looking for the time, when the dews and showers having descended, a glorious harvest shall be gathered from the same field.

While it is a fact that many of the class alluded to have aided us by funds, influence, and personal assistance, we have reason to believe that the number is small, very small, in comparison with what it might and ought to be.

Your committee therefore recommend the following resolutions, viz.:

1. *Resolved*, That the corresponding secretary be requested to address, through the medium of the New York Observer and Religious Chronicle, the young men of the city, and particularly those attached to Sabbath schools, inviting their co-operation in aid of this society.

2. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the chairman of the Sunday school teachers of this city, and request him to make known to that body, at their next meet-

ing, the special object of this society, with a view of extending the information throughout the schools.

3. *Resolved*, That the Sabbath schools of this city be districted, and a committee of nine appointed, into whose hands the subscription books of the Society shall be placed, for the purpose of visiting said Sabbath schools, and engaging the exertions of such as have not already come out to the help of the Society.

4. *Resolved*, That the said committee be requested to wait upon the chairman or secretary of the visiting committee of the New York Sunday School Union Society, and request that the said committee make known to the several schools in their visits the object of this Society, and endeavour to increase the interest in its favour. In behalf of the committee,

H. E. THOMAS, *Chairman*.

This report was adopted, and a committee appointed accordingly, whose report was presented in September, 1825, as follows :

The committee appointed to confer with the Association of Teachers and Visiting Committees of Sabbath Schools report :

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and, on the part of the former body, have had the satisfaction of having a resolution passed, expressive of their high sense of the services of this Society, and our cordial reception as a powerful auxiliary to the Sabbath school cause.

On behalf of the committee,

H. E. THOMAS, *Chairman*.

At the second anniversary, held Dec. 26th, 1825, the following board of officers and managers were chosen. The names of a few who seem to have been efficient labourers in the first year of the Society are missing in it; but the list is inserted, as probably representing fairly the Christian charac-

ter and stamina of the organization at that point of its history. Those marked with a \* were members of the Board in the first year. Those with a † were elected at the first anniversary. The rest were new members:

*President* . . . . . \* HENRY BENNETT.

*Vice Presidents.*

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| * 1. GEORGE COLGATE,       | * 4. WM. WINTERTON,      |
| * 2. JOSEPH SANDS,         | * 6. OLIVER E. COBB,     |
| * 3. MARINUS WILLETT, JR., | * 6. FREDERICK A. GUION. |

*Secretaries.*

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| * GEORGE A. DWIGHT, Cor.                      | † ALFRED EDWARDS, Rec. |
| <i>Treasurer</i> . . . . . * WALTER M. SMITH. |                        |

*Managers.*

- |                     |                    |                      |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| * Frederick Bull,   | † Henry E. Thomas, | † Wm. E. Lewis,      |
| * E. H. Stokes,     | * A. G. Cochrane,  | * Jas. P. Drummond,  |
| † Jas. H. Rathbone, | * Theoph. Russell, | * Jas. T. Smith,     |
| * R. A. Striker,    | * Henry Roosevelt, | John H. Williams,    |
| * Finley Wright,    | Wm. E. Dodge,      | Wm. P. Disosway,     |
| Washington Murray,  | John Post,         | Theo. W. Porter,     |
| H. S. Whittemore,   | Jeremiah Wilbur,   | Southerl'd Douglass, |
| Henry H. Leeds,     | T. G. Talmage,     | Edmund K. Bussing,   |
| Wm. Hurry,          | Wm. P. Donaldson,  | Jireh Bull,          |
| F. A. Bokee,        | Nathan Caswell,    | Noel Robertson.      |

(See Document B, Appendix.)

1826.

Through the years 1825 and 1826 the mode of operation continued as before. At the close of the former year, one Bible and two Testaments remained in the depository, and 435 Bibles and 1,350

Testaments had been distributed "through a committee of the S. S. Union Society," who visited the schools monthly, and rewarded the scholars by drafts upon the depository of the Y. M. N. Y. Bible Society. A grant of fifty Bibles had also been made in June to the "Female Union S. S. Association."

Of the 280 Bibles and 1,423 Testaments furnished to the N. Y. S. S. Union in 1826, "all the Bibles and about 350 Testaments were given as rewards; the remainder of the latter for the use of the schools."

In the course of this year the city was districted for the collection of funds, and a committee appointed to divide the board of managers into committees for soliciting aid, within the limits of the several districts. It reported as follows, at the meeting in June:

*Front Street.*—Henry Bennett, M. Willett, Jr., Jas. T. Smith.

*Maiden Lane.*—H. E. Thomas, H. S. Whittemore, T. G. Tal-  
mage.

*Washington and West Streets.*—W. Murray, N. Caswell, Noel  
Robertson.

*South Street.*—F. Bull, J. P. Drummond, T. Russell.

*William and Fulton Streets.*—F. A. Bokee, Wm. Hurry,  
R. O. Dwight.

*Greenwich Street.*—Henry Roosevelt, R. A. Striker.

*Pearl Street.*—Geo. A. Dwight, H. H. Leeds, W. E. Dodge.

*Wall Street.*—O. E. Cobb, F. A. Guion.

*Pine and Cedar Streets.*—W. M. Smith, Jos. Sands, E. K.  
Bussing.

*Broadway.*—Wm. Winterton, A. G. Cochrane, E. H. Stokes.

These committees visited the several districts as-



signed to them, and obtained something more than \$250 in donations to the Society.

### 1827.

Early in the year 1827 a grant of Bibles and Testaments to the value of \$50 was made to the Young Ladies' New York Bible Society. It was also resolved to furnish supplies to the Female S. S. Union. The entire distribution for the year amounted to 2,248 volumes. In October a donation of 100 Bibles and 200 Testaments was received from the New York Bible Society, for which thanks were formally voted at the anniversary.

[In pursuance of the object proposed in the third article of the constitution, repeated efforts were made in various directions for the formation of auxiliaries.

In 1827, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Havens, Walter M. Smith, Kimball, and Rev. Albert Judson, succeeded in forming the Young Men's Brooklyn Bible Society; which, so far as shown by the record, is the only auxiliary from which the young parent received any amount of material aid.

The interchange of Christian counsels and courtesies with its Orange County auxiliary, formed in 1830, was pleasant, and doubtless mutually encouraging, but not otherwise important.

Its experiments in forming "Youth's Bible Associations," reserving the right of appointing some member of the board as president, proved also quite unsatisfactory; and though for some years, particularly

in 1832, the formation of ward and other auxiliaries was pursued with earnestness, and clung to with tenacity, the whole system appears to have been silently abandoned before its formal revocation by the constitutional amendments made at the society's sixteenth anniversary, held January 15th, 1840.]

The committee of arrangements for the fourth anniversary of the society (November, 1827) proposed to the Board that the following resolution should be submitted to the society on that occasion :

*Resolved*, That the board of direction be requested to appoint a committee to confer with the Parent Society on the subject of supplying the destitute families in the city and county of New York with Bibles.

The resolution was so offered, and adopted, and subscriptions made to the amount of \$690 50, conditioned upon the prosecution of the work of city supply by the Board.

To the amount so subscribed, \$30 were added early in the year 1828, through Mrs. Bethune, "towards distributing the Word of God among the destitute in this city."

### 1828.

This subject which had so interested the Society at its annual meeting was brought before the new Board at its first meeting, Nov. 8th, 1827, under the above resolution, and Messrs. F. Bull, Wm. Winterton, Henry E. Thomas, O. E. Cobb, and Robert O. Dwight were appointed by the chairman the committee of conference. It was also

*Resolved*, That as we are now commencing the labours of a new year, and an extensive field of operation appears to be presenting itself to our view, it becomes us all to be increasingly diligent in discharging the duties that may devolve upon us, and we hereby pledge ourselves accordingly.

At the next meeting of the Board, December 6, 1827, the committee made the following report:

The committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Board, to confer with the Board of Managers of the New York Bible Society on the subject of supplying the destitute families of the city and county of New York with Bibles, report: That they have had an interview with a committee from that Body, who after hearing the communication from this Board, and learning that it was not our object to interfere, but to co-operate, seemed highly gratified, and agreed without delay to confer with the Managers of the American Bible Society on some plan for the accomplishment of this great object.

At a recent interview with several members of that committee, we are informed that they have a plan prepared to submit to their board next Monday evening, which, if approved, will be presented to the public on Monday evening, the 17th inst., at the annual meeting of the New York Bible Society; and they intend to make every effort to facilitate its execution.

Signed, in behalf of the committee,

WILLIAM WINTERTON.

No further reference to this plan, or the subject of it, is on record; but the plan actually adopted was the dissolution of the old "New York Bible Society," and the formation of ward Bible associations, which in 1828 partially explored the city, and found 952 families destitute of the Bible; collected \$1,900 09, and made a donation to the American Bible Society of \$909 14.

[At the end of one year these ward Bible associations were combined in, or superseded by the "New York City Bible Society," with which the Female B. S. was expected to co-operate in its performance of the local work. According to the Report of the American Bible Society for that year, the society so formed had a "president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and depositary, with a board of seventy-five directors." It was recognized as an auxiliary by the American Bible Society in April, 1829, one month after the Young Men's Bible Society.]

The work which the Young Men's Bible Society had sought, and for which its friends had partially provided the means, being thus assumed by others, the Society pursued its work of supplying the Scriptures to Sabbath schools; calculating in its annual estimate that it would require an increase in receipts of about \$400 to "enable it to meet the demands of the New York S. S. Union" for the year (1828).

At the March meeting of the Board, it was

*Resolved*, That as the object of supplying all the destitute families in the city and county of New York has been undertaken, (that is, by the other societies,) a committee of this Board volunteer to collect the amount subscribed for this purpose at the last annual meeting of this society, with a view to its being paid over proportionably to destitute ward Bible societies.

Messrs. H. E. Thomas, O. E. Cobb, Drummond,

Edwards, Winterton, F. Bull, Thornton, and Dodge volunteered as the above committee.

In January of this year (1828) an application was made by the "S. S. Union of the M. E. Church" for a supply of Bibles and Testaments for the use of their Sabbath schools, accompanied by a notification that they cheerfully consent to permit the Board to enter their schools for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions in aid of the Bible Cause.

This application was referred to a special committee, who reported against it, on the ground that it was beyond the province of the Society to apply its funds "to the supply of any sectarian institution," and suggesting to our Methodist brethren that they become auxiliary to the American Bible Society, and thus obtain like facilities as the Society in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at cost prices. Some feeling evidently grew out of it; a committee of the Board being appointed in May "to take into consideration the difficulties," &c. Several meetings passed without any report, but at the August meeting the following communication was received from the American Bible Society:

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE, }  
NEW YORK, August 7th, 1828. }

MR. G. A. DWIGHT, *Cor. Sec. Y. M. N. Y. B. S.* :—

Your communication of March last, in relation to procuring books of the American Bible Society as an auxiliary until recognized, was this day laid before the Board. It was determined that the privilege requested by your society should be granted. It was furthermore resolved, that a donation of *two hundred*

Bibles and five hundred Testaments should be made to your Society, for the specific purpose of supplying the Sunday schools connected with the Methodist Episcopal Churches in this city.

It is hoped that you will receive and transmit these books to those for whom they are designed, and that peace, holiness, and the salvation of many youth, will be the happy result.

JOHN C. BRIGHAM, *Cor. Sec. A. B. S.*

The matter was again referred to a committee, and after a little delay an order for the books was sent to the Meth. Epis. S. S. Society, with a polite note stating that they were a donation from the American Bible Society, through the Y. M. N. Y. B. S., and the controversy was thus happily ended.

Pleasanter incidents closed the year. A committee of conference, in regard to co-operation in the work of Sabbath school supply, had been appointed by the Young Ladies' Bible Society, which was met by a similar committee of the Board, and an arrangement made that the young ladies should take charge of the supply for the girls' schools, and this Society furnish supplies for the boys.

A grant of twenty-five Bibles and 100 Testaments was made in October to the Rev. Mr. Stanford "for a Sabbath school among the prisoners at Blackwell's Island," and another, in November, of fifty Bibles to a Sabbath school in the Greenwich Penitentiary. These grants mark the commencement of the Society's efforts among the Humane and Criminal Institutions of the city.

The former of them was acknowledged in the following communication to the recording secretary:

MR. ALFRED EDWARDS—

DEAR SIR :—I solicit the favour of your presenting my sincere acknowledgments to the managers of the Young Men's New York Bible Society for their unsolicited and pious donation of twenty-five Bibles and one hundred Testaments, for the use of the Sabbath school formed among the prisoners at Blackwell's Island.

In my far advanced years, it is a peculiar luxury to my heart, that while there are so many young men in our city who devote themselves to a life of vanity and dissipation, there are others whom the Lord has enriched with his fear, and are associated for the most important purpose of circulating the Holy Scriptures among the poor and wretched of our community. Most devoutly do I pray that the number may be increased; and that the Divine Spirit, who indited the sacred page, may cause the Word of Christ to dwell in each of the young men's hearts, and accompany their public efforts with holy benediction, that by their means thousands of sinners may be led into the way of salvation, to the glory of the Lord.

I am, respected sir,

Yours in the Gospel,

JOHN STANFORD.

[At the anniversaries of 1828, '29, and '30, no reference was made to supplying the destitute families of the city; but increased diligence and enlarged liberality were urged in view of the increase of Sabbath schools under the care of the N. Y. S. S. Union, and renewed efforts proposed to form and foster "numerous auxiliaries," and to induce young men to "address themselves to labours of Christian

benevolence." An address to the young men of the United States was issued with this view in 1831, and probably had much to do with the formation of many of the Young Men's Bible Societies that originated about that time. Last, but not least, the necessity of "more humble and unceasing prayer" was often and earnestly suggested.]

### 1829.

The Society, having surrendered the supply of one half the Sabbath schools to the Young Ladies' Bible Society, soon found itself in want of employment for its energies, and various propositions were made and discussed "for extending the sphere of its operations;" though at the same time it discouraged direct applications from city Sabbath schools which had become disconnected from the N. Y. S. S. Union, through which alone, at this period, it seemed disposed to act in the home field. Such applications were repeatedly made, and invariably refused, unless shown to be peculiar in their claims, as being for adults, &c.

But in spite of this feeling, the spirit of active Christian life in which the Society had its birth, and which formed its vital spring, while rejoicing in even limited opportunities of doing good, was not satisfied with them, but looked forward and abroad for other openings. Its proper work came slowly, yet perhaps nearly as fast as, amid the va-



rious hinderances to them, its strength and experience grew.

At the meeting of the Board in January, 1829, it was

*Resolved*, That we, deeply impressed with a sense of our obligations to our constituents, do pledge ourselves, individually and jointly, to use all proper measures to further the views of the society, and endeavour to make it an increasing and lasting benefit to those around us; feeling and acknowledging always our entire dependence on our Heavenly Father for strength to perform our labour, and a blessing to crown it with success.

It was also resolved to receive pledges from individual members of certain amounts, to be paid in or before October, in new subscribers, donors, or funds. The following are the first pledges given in this manner:

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wm. Winterton . . . \$30  | Walter M. Smith . . . \$20 |
| A. Edwards . . . . 30     | Wilmot Williams . . . 20   |
| F. A. Guion . . . . 25    | Wm. Walker . . . . 20      |
| C. L. Roberts . . . . 25  | Norman White . . . . 20    |
| J. S. Davenport . . . 25  | Duncan McArthur . . 20     |
| P. R. Roach . . . . 25    | Edward Field . . . . 20    |
| John Smalley . . . . 25   | Jireh Bull . . . . . 20    |
| O. E. Cobb . . . . . 25   | J. P. Drummond . . . 20    |
| F. S. Winston . . . . 20  | G. Buck, Jr. . . . . 20    |
| G. U. Richards . . . . 30 | W. E. Whiting . . . . 15   |
| H. N. Peek . . . . . 20   | N. St. John . . . . . 15   |
| H. E. Thomas . . . . 20   | E. B. Huntington . . 15    |
| F. Bull . . . . . 20      | Wm. H. Byron . . . . 15    |
| Wm. E. Dodge . . . . 20   | A. W. Corey . . . . . 10   |
| T. R. Green . . . . . 20  | J. G. Tappan . . . . 15    |
| E. K. Bussing . . . . 20  | John Post . . . . . 10     |

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Total . . . . . \$655

## 1830.

The supply of Humane and Criminal Institutions, begun in 1828, was continued in 1829 and 1830, in which years grants were first made to the House of Refuge and Almshouse.

At this period, also, frequent direct applications for individual Sabbath schools, and for distribution, began to be received from abroad, which in all apparently proper cases were promptly and cheerfully met, the practice being followed more or less down to 1843. (See Document F, Appendix.)

In June, 1830, a donation of \$300 was made to the American Bible Society in aid of its undertaking to supply every destitute family in the Union with a copy of the Bible; and 2,000 New Testaments were granted to aid the American Sunday School Union in supplying Sabbath Schools in the valley of the Mississippi; and at its November meeting, the Board adopted a resolution to be submitted to the Society at its anniversary "authorizing the managers to extend the sphere of operation of this society, by supplying such Sunday schools with the New Testament as have been, or shall be, formed by the American Sunday School Union in the State of Illinois, or in such other States as the Board may select."

The seventh anniversary was held at the City Hotel, November 22d, 1830; and the following brief extract from the annual report, then presented, is

all we have been able to obtain. It has the ring of the true Christian metal :

We have all marked, with equal delight and astonishment, how strongly the tide of Christian sympathy has set toward the great valley of the West, and how unprecedented the volume of charity which has poured into its bosom. The Board could not see the mighty flood, so like in character to our own little stream, sweep by, without being partially drawn into its current. We have sent 2,000 Testaments for Sabbath schools, to be formed in the Western States.

### 1831.

The influence of this anniversary seems to have been eminently happy. At the first meeting of the new Board, 3,000 additional Testaments were ordered on to St. Louis with despatch ; and immediately thereafter, in January, 1831, more systematic and vigorous plans were devised, both for home and Western operations, as well as in respect to finances for their support. It was just at this point that a member of the board reported “ a donation of twenty dollars, as a thank-offering from *a father* for the *conversion of three* of his children.”

On the 7th of April, 1831, a proposition was received from the “ Young Ladies’ New York Bible Society,” offering to undertake the entire supply of the Sabbath schools belonging to the New York Sunday School Union with Bibles and Testaments.

At the May (5th) meeting of the Board, this proposal, on recommendation of a committee, was “ thankfully accepted,” and the corresponding secre-

tary directed to notify the visiting committee of the New York Sunday School Union of the change. This completed the separation of the Society from the work, which had hitherto been regarded as the peculiar object and first duty of its organization, and to which it had for the most part been practically compelled to confine itself, and seemed to leave it nothing to do within its proper local bounds.

Larger fields, however, were opening, which the Society moved on steadily, yet cautiously, to occupy.

At the same meeting the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That, in reliance upon the Giver of every good and perfect gift, this society will supply the schools under the charge of the American Sunday School Union, and all that may be formed by the same in the State of Missouri, with Testaments for the use of Sabbath schools, under the same regulations as those adopted by the Board in regard to Sabbath schools in Illinois.

A resolution was also passed, directing that all applications from Sabbath schools in the city be referred "to the Committee on Applications." The door of Christian charity was thus opened to those denominational Sabbath schools which, while the Society was interlinked with the New York Sunday School Union, it had not seemed to favour; but which, from this time forward, have been recognized as within its proper province, and made, from time to time, recipients of its grants.

At the August (4th) meeting, "the president stated that he had received a communication from the New York City Bible Society, requesting a committee from our society to confer with them upon the expediency of resigning their labours to our Society." The committee appointed for this purpose reported at the September (1st) meeting. The report was accepted, and discussed in committee of the whole, which discussion was resumed at a special meeting, held September 17, at which Mr. Henry E. Thomas, a former member of the Board, who had always shown an interest in the subject of city supply, was invited to sit with the Board, and to take a part in their deliberations.

After a prolonged discussion of the subject, the Board

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to make further inquiries, and obtain additional information, in relation to the proposition submitted to us by the New York City Bible Society.

Messrs. Winterton, Green, Winston, Brown, and Cobb were appointed said committee.

At the regular meeting of the Board, held October 6th, 1831, the committee made the following report:

The committee, to whom was referred the proposition of the New York City Bible Society, report, that they have taken pains to look into the past operations of that society, and feel convinced that the only difficulty in the way of the regular supply of this city with Bibles has been, the inactivity of the board of that institution; and, from the character of the individuals composing

it, we know that this inactivity must have proceeded from some other cause than a disposition to shrink from duty. They already do so much in other societies, that nothing is left of their energy or time for this; there is no prospect, therefore, of the work being done, unless we assume it. Your committee have also ascertained that about half of the wards only will require the direct attention of our Board, although it will be proper to keep a constant and vigilant eye to the manner in which the duty is done in the wards otherwise provided for. But, in the part of the city which will require our active and immediate exertion, your committee believe that the necessities are greater than was at first supposed, and will be incessantly recurring, in consequence of the arrival and settlement of emigrants. The City Bible Society's expenditure, which has been about \$1,000 per annum, affords a very imperfect criterion of what we shall need, because that society has not been thorough in its work. Your committee have also learned that we may depend upon the partial assistance of the tract distributors, but not on the association of the "Young Men's Society;" and would recommend that, if the business is undertaken by this Society, means be adopted to distribute the Bibles among the poor by selling them, rather than gratuitously, as it is notorious that numbers of copies received as gifts are regarded only as *pawns* for the dram-shop. Finally, your committee are of opinion that the Board can efficiently provide for the constant supply of the city population, if it address itself to the labour with an humble, determined, prayerful, and persevering spirit; and therefore recommend the attempt only upon the supposition that every member of the Board is prepared to engage in it personally, especially those upon whom the present duties of the Society fall most lightly. If this supposition is well founded, your committee suggest the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That this Society accede to the proposition of the New York City Bible Society, and that every member of the Board of Managers is requested to make it his daily prayer for the ensuing month; that we may adopt the wisest plan, and

pursue it with the purest motives, in discharging our new duties.

|  |   |                   |
|--|---|-------------------|
| WILLIAM WINTERTON,<br>FREDERICK S. WINSTON,<br>JOHN G. BROWER,<br>T. R. GREEN, | } | <i>Committee.</i> |
|--|---|-------------------|

This report was accepted by the Board, and the subject of it carefully considered at successive meetings. It was finally resolved to accept the proposition of the New York City Bible Society, and assume its responsibilities in relation to the supply of the destitute families of the city, whenever that society should have ceased to exist, provided this decision should be sanctioned by the Society at its eighth anniversary. In the annual report this new opening was treated as a marked Providence in the history of the Society, and as presenting an object for its labours lying within the range of Christian prudence, which, it is well added, "must always lean one hand, at least, on Christian faith."

The Society, at its anniversary, November 29, 1831, approved the undertaking; and, on the 9th of January following, the New York City Bible Society, after an existence of three years, formally dissolved, the act being communicated to the Board, on the 17th of January, as follows:

Extract from the Minutes of the New York City Bible Society, January 9th, 1832.

*Whereas* the Young Men's New York Bible Society did, at their last annual meeting, determine to assume the duties of the New York City Bible Society, whenever the latter should cease to exist: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That this society be now dissolved, and that the secretary inform the Young Men's New York Bible Society of the same.

J. BROUWER,  
*Recording Secretary.*

As the surrender of the supply of city Sabbath schools in May had separated the Society from what had been arbitrarily regarded as its peculiar work, this step introduced it to labours seeming naturally and properly to belong to it.

- 1832.

At the first meeting of the new Board, December 1st, 1831, preparatory steps were taken for the prosecution of the important work resolved upon. A stamp bearing the name of the society was adopted, to be placed upon the books it might distribute, and thus in a measure prevent imposition or abuse. A committee of nine was also appointed to devise a plan of operations.

At the regular meeting, January 17, 1832, the committee, having conferred with the New York City Tract Society's committee, reported a plan, of which the following are the essential features:

1. The tract visitors of the New York City Tract Society to be furnished with blanks, in which to record monthly the names and residences of families found destitute of the Bible.
2. These cases of destitution to be reported to the ward committee of the Board, the appointment of which was also provided for.
3. That some member of the ward committee should attend the monthly meetings of the tract distributors, and arrange for



the supply of the destitute either through the tract distributors or personally. The committee also to take further measures, if necessary, to ascertain if every family within the ward possessed the Bible.

4. In those wards in which Bible societies existed, the destitution ascertained was to be reported to them monthly by the ward committee, and, if not attended to, then to be reported to the Board.

5. In certain wards (sixth, ninth, fourteenth, and fifteenth), it was made the duty of the ward committee to issue circulars, and distribute them to every house, giving information where those who wanted Bibles might obtain them. In these wards it was also made the duty of the committees to solicit funds, to visit personally, and distribute the Scriptures, with power to call in necessary volunteer aid. In some of these wards, it is stated that two-thirds of the destitute supplied were discovered through the circulars thus distributed.

The first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and eighth wards had been for several years supplied by the New York Female Bible Society, and at first a desire was expressed by them to continue the supply, reporting monthly to the Board "the amount and details of their labours;" but at the meeting of the Board in March (1st), it was informed that the New York Female Bible Society "had resolved to withdraw from the labour of supplying" those wards, "and to devote its funds to other purposes."

A committee was immediately appointed, of which Timothy R. Green was chairman, to arrange those wards under the general plan above described, which was done; and the ward committees were directed to explain to the superintendent of tract distribution

in their respective wards "the present arrangement, and the causes of the past apparent neglect; requesting also that they urge their distributors to return monthly all existing cases of destitution."

Further: The committee suggest to their brethren of the Board that too much care cannot be taken in all our intercourse with our friends engaged in the tract distribution to manifest that our object is always to co-operate, never to interfere with them. Circumstances have come to the knowledge of the committee, in the course of their investigations, which show that, without great prudence on our part, our motives may be misconstrued, and therefore not appreciated.

With special reference to the necessary provisions for these new Western and home fields of labour, vigorous financial movements were also made. The report of the committee appointed on this subject, which was "accepted and adopted" at the March meeting of the Board, recommended:

That as many churches as might be deemed expedient or practicable be represented in the Board, and that to each church so represented, and to such other churches as the Board may think proper, a church committee of at least one member should be appointed to raise funds, by enrolling the young men as members, and if possible, by forming, with the previous consent and concurrence of the pastor, associations which would regularly raise contributions for the Bible Cause, and present them to or through the Society. Also, that in those wards wholly dependent upon the Board, the ward committees should, if practicable, "hold frequent meetings of the friends of the Bible in their respective wards, and thereby raise as much money as can be prudently solicited." Finally, the committee suggested the appointment of a committee "to prepare, and cause to be inserted

in all the religious papers of the city, such notices of the Society and its operations as might appear calculated to interest the Christian public in its behalf."

In the midst of these measures for meeting their new responsibilities, the Board received an application from the N. Y. S. S. Union for 3,000 Bibles, for the use of the Sabbath schools under their care. After consideration at a special meeting, it was concluded, that the Board having undertaken duties, the extent of which it could not yet distinctly appreciate, was "not prepared to make" the donation; and a direct application to the American Bible Society by the N. Y. S. S. Union was suggested.

In the course of this summer (1832) the cholera came among us, and in view of the solemn visitation it was

*Resolved*, That God having raised the rod of his chastisement over the field of our operations, we will, as members of this Board, endeavour, in discharging our duties, to feel that it becomes us to do with our *might* what our hands find to do; as those we would benefit, and we who seek their good, may, at an hour when we least expect, be called to our eternal destinies; and should we be scattered by the terror of the prevailing pestilence, we will, one and all, remember the objects of our Society in daily prayer.

The distribution to destitute families during this first and calamitous year was small, and was effected entirely through individual members of the Board, ward committees, and to some extent by the clergy of the city churches, who now began to be supplied with Bibles for distribution. The grants to

Humane and Criminal Institutions were increased slightly over those of the previous year ; and a grant of one Bible and forty Testaments was made to the convalescing patients of a cholera hospital, on application of a physician.

The labours of the Society among the military posts in the harbour of New York had been commenced in October, 1831, by the supply of 125 New Testaments to a company of U. S. soldiers about to leave for Virginia and other parts of the United States ; in which case “the application came from the soldiers, who were anxious to obtain the Word of God to carry with them.”

The work in this department increased considerably, in 1832, in connection with the efforts of Rev. Mr. Burnett, Chaplain at Governor’s Island. At the ninth anniversary of the society, held November 29th, 1832, the supply of military posts in New York Harbour was formally added to the standing duties of the society. It was also

*Resolved*, That it be considered a prominent duty by every member of this society, to make mention of its interests in his daily prayers, while he does what he can to promote its welfare, and extend its influence.

An amendment to the 7th (8th original) article of the constitution was adopted at this time, by which the number of managers was increased to *forty*, and divided into two equal classes, so that the terms of one half of the number should expire an-

nually, but leave them re-eligible. Other unimportant changes were also made.

### 1833.

At the close of the anniversary meeting of 1832, Mr. Oliver E. Cobb was elected President, and fulfilled the duties of his office at the regular meetings of the Board in December, January, and February; was absent on account of sickness from the two following meetings, and was buried on Sunday, April 28th, 1833. The Board held a special meeting to attend his funeral, and adopted resolutions expressive of their sense of the loss sustained by his family and the Society.

Mr. Cobb is the only officer of the Society who has died while an actual incumbent. He was one of the original members of the Board, dying in the tenth year of a faithful and devoted service. It cannot be amiss to insert here a brief notice of his character from the tenth annual report :

He was an active, enterprising, useful, and amiable member of society. To talents of no mean order he united a goodness of heart, a gentleness of manner, and a simplicity of Christian character, which made him the beloved of many, and the friend of all . . . . To the cause of his Redeemer, he was an invaluable servant, and bright is the example which he has left for our imitation; he hath passed from among us without reproach, having performed the work which his Master gave him to do; and leaving a name consecrated by the virtues of a life devoted to God.

A new certificate of honorary membership, en-

graved by Mr. Samuel Styles, after a design painted by Weir, was adopted at the opening of this year (1833), and the original design was presented by the Board to Mr. Joseph H. Colton, with thanks for his services on the committee to obtain the certificate.

In February, the Purchasing Committee were authorized to furnish the clergymen of the city with such Bibles and Testaments as might be necessary to supply the destitute found by them in their visits among the people of their respective charges, requesting them to report the cases of destitution and supply to the chairman of that committee.

At the regular meeting in May (2d), the following resolution, previously offered by Mr. Timothy R. Green, was adopted :

*Resolved*, That it be the duty of the several ward committees (except the 12th) to attend personally to supplying with the Word of God such families as they may ascertain to be destitute, from the reports of the tract distributors or otherwise.

This subject was repeatedly brought up in the course of this year, in a manner indicating the conviction of the Board that all was not done that ought to be done, although the distribution in this department nearly quadrupled within the year; and at the regular meeting, in November (7th), "a resolution with reference to supplying the destitute families of the city more efficiently" was offered, and referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. M'Arthur, Mason, and Winslow.

In September, the Board by resolution undertook to supply all U. S. Government vessels on their leaving this port, and for the first time appointed a committee on Naval Stations; and a committee was also directed "to inquire into the expediency of supplying the packet-ships to Havre, London, and Liverpool."

Early in the year a special committee had been appointed to report the draft of a constitution for auxiliary societies. The committee several times reported progress, but made no final report until after the anniversary.

The most important measure of this year, however, was the determination to attempt to raise \$10,000, in aid of the effort of the American Bible Society to give the Bible to all the accessible population of the globe, within the shortest practicable period.

Three evenings, May 2d, 3d, and 4th, were spent in the consideration of this great subject, the Rev. Dr. Plumer, of Virginia, being present with the Board, and addressing them at length.

After still further discussion at subsequent meetings, and on ascertaining the views of the Parent Society, and its willingness to yield the entire local field to this society for collections, until the project of raising such sum should be carried out, the Board at its October meeting reconsidered its former resolutions, by which the amount had been specifically designated for expenditure by Mr. Gutzlaff in China, and unanimously

*Resolved*, That we will endeavour to raise the sum of \$10,000 during the current year of the Parent Society, which, or such part thereof as we shall be able to obtain, shall be appropriated through the American Bible Society, as so much of their pledge of \$30,000 for foreign distribution.

The Parent Society had previously resolved to make their appropriation of \$3,000 for China from the amount to be raised by this Society.

The committee sought, and obtained the aid of Rev. Dr. Proudfit, of Salem, N. Y., in soliciting contributions. The venerable man, in his letter of acceptance to the committee, says:

Permit me, therefore, respectfully to recommend that your committee occasionally meet on purpose to implore His blessing on this your honourable design; then the execution will be easy, and the result happy and glorious. The copies of Divine Truth, thrown into circulation by this contribution, will add other gems to your Master's crown, and your own crown, through eternal ages.

The work thus undertaken in faith and prayer was accomplished in season, the pledge redeemed, "and the amount paid in cash." Suitable acknowledgments of the services rendered by the Rev. Dr. Proudfit were made, at a special meeting held for the purpose, in January, 1834.

### 1834.

At the first meeting of the new Board, December 12th, 1833, the special committee appointed in November, "with reference to supplying the destitute families of the city more efficiently," reported a plan



for this purpose, which, after being discussed until a late hour, was laid over, together with a proposition to condense the standing committees, to an adjourned meeting to be held December 13th, at which time the latter was definitely laid on the table, and the usual standing committees were appointed. The former, which is not on record, was also, after some further discussion, laid on the table; and the different ward committees were instructed "to take immediate measures to ascertain and supply the destitution throughout the city, and report the result in March."

At this meeting measures were taken for defining the proper duties of the various standing committees.

A special committee was also appointed to inquire and report in reference to supplying the emigrants arriving at this port with the Bible, and to devise a plan of operations. The committee reported at an adjourned meeting in March (13th), and the discussion of their report was continued at the regular meeting in April (4th). The resolutions reported by them were adopted. They expressed the high sense of the importance of this work to the future civil and religious interests of the country; and determined, in reliance on the Divine blessing, to supply every emigrant family landing at this port "with a copy of the Sacred Scriptures in their own language."

For this purpose a "Standing Committee on Emi-

grants" was now first appointed, and it was resolved to employ an agent to labour in this department under the direction of the committee. This committee was also directed to confer with the Parent Society and with the Marine Bible Society as to any co-operation to be expected from them. In June (5th) the committee reported the appointment of Mr. C. C. Andrews as their Agent, and subsequently, at the regular meetings of the Board, gave interesting accounts of his labours. The expense of this department was estimated by the committee, on the basis of 36,000 arrivals yearly, at \$2,500 per annum.

The agent was instructed to distribute the Scriptures among the families arriving, and to secure the co-operation of owners and captains. This, in general, seems to have been readily effected; and, in addition to his personal distribution, the agent placed Bibles on board the ships for the use of passengers on the return voyage. In connection with this work, a part of an office, No. 20 Wall Street, was rented for thirty-one dollars per annum.

Beginning in 1833, and continuing through 1834, the work of the Society, particularly in connection with the naval and emigrant committees, came more and more into contact with the work of the Marine Bible Society, calling frequently for those committees of conference, which finally, in 1839, resulted in the entire assumption of its duties.

In the course of this year (1834) a majority of the wards were reported by their respective commit-

tées as for the most part well supplied with Bibles. One of them (the eighth) had employed an agent; which measure, after discussion, was approved. In the annual report, the work of city distribution is characterized as "a self-denying duty," "though not unfrequently enlivened by incidents of great interest." At the eleventh anniversary, December 10th, 1834, the work of supplying emigrant families was made one of the regular operations of the society.

### 1835.

At the opening meeting for this year, held as usual in December (25th) of the year preceding, the wish of the Parent Board to devolve upon this Society the entire public collection of funds in this city for the Bible Cause was communicated to the Board.

It was, after due consideration, unanimously

*Resolved*, That this Board will assume for the current year the public collection of all moneys in the city for the Bible Cause.

A standing committee of seven was immediately appointed as a "committee of ways and means," with directions to communicate to the Parent Board the action of this Society in the matter.

The auxiliary committee was requested to inquire into the condition of the ward auxiliaries, and also other ward Bible societies not auxiliary, and report at the next meeting. They reported in March (5th), but nothing special appears except a resolution requesting the ward committees to see that the destitute are supplied in two wards (seventh and thir-

teenth), where auxiliaries had existed, which it **may** be inferred had suspended.

In February (5th) the Committee of Ways and Means reported having engaged the services of Mr. H. D. Ward as an agent of the society, and other measures adopted by them, which were approved. The resignation of Mr. Andrews as agent was received and accepted at this meeting, he being about to remove to the West.

In April Mr. Ward was placed under the direction of "the Committee of Ways and Means and Emigrant Committee;" and in July, on account of ill health, he employed Mr. Jacobson to act in his stead among emigrants.

In May (7th) an interesting letter from the Rev. Charles Gutzlaff, of China, in reply to a communication addressed to him, by order of the Board, by the corresponding secretary, was read, gratefully acknowledging the contribution of funds by this society for the new edition of the Chinese Scriptures, which, in co-operation with Mr. Bridgman, he was employed in preparing.

In this year a proposition was made to distribute the Scriptures among emigrants in portions, in the form of tracts, but, under the judicious action of the Parent Board, it was abandoned.

Various propositions were also made by persons disconnected with the Board to employ the agent among emigrants in the incidental distribution of temperance tracts, and "cards" notifying them of

time and place of worship, which the Board refused to sanction.

In relation to the supply of city destitution, the usual resolution was adopted at the January (8th) meeting, referring it to the ward committees for prompt attention and accomplishment. In September (3d) it was resolved to supply all children under fifteen years of age, who could read, with the New Testament, and the ward committees were instructed "to see that it is thoroughly and promptly done;" and further, in November, the chairmen of the several ward committees were directed to keep a supply of Bibles on hand, and inform "the tract ward agents" where they may be obtained, and furnish them, when requested, at their several residences.

At the close of this year, Mr. Walter M. Smith, who had been eleven years treasurer, retired from that office and from the Board, having become ineligible by age, the limit being thirty-five. Resolutions of thanks for long and faithful services were adopted, and a pleasant "token of esteem and regard" presented to him.

### 1836.

At the opening of this year the plan for supplying the *poor* children of the city gratuitously with the New Testament was again brought before the Board, and referred to the ward committees with detailed instructions for effecting it, accompanied by the annual resolution in reference to supplying families.

At the same time the committee of ways and means was requested to consider if any, and what change is necessary in the present mode of distributing the Bible, and to report at the next meeting of the Board, which they did, but recommended no change. At a subsequent stage of the meeting, a special committee on the same subject was raised, consisting of Messrs. Edwards, Green, and Warriner. In April the committee reported resolutions, which were at once adopted, "that the present mode of distribution through the tract agents of the different wards be continued as far as is practicable; and in any of the wards where there are no tract agents, it be done, as formerly, by the members of the Board;" and further directing that a supply of Bibles be kept at an appointed central place in each ward, under charge of some member of the ward committee, whose duty it was made "to see that the tract agents are always supplied," and report monthly to the Board.

Bible distribution to Hotels was first suggested at the February (4th) meeting of the Board by Mr. George T. Fox, who proposed "supplying each bedroom of the principal hotels of this city with a copy of the Scriptures," beginning "with the Astor Hotel if practicable;" which was afterward accomplished.

In March (3d) an application was received, in behalf of the New York Sunday School Union, for "100 Bibles for premiums," in consequence of the belief that the Young Ladies' Bible Society had dis-

solved. It was referred to the Committee on Applications with power. This committee reported, in April, that the Young Ladies' Bible Society had united with the New York Female Bible Society, and that the latter had placed \$300 worth of Bibles at the disposal of the New York Sunday School Union.

In March (3d) Mr. Luther P. Hubbard was appointed Agent of the society under direction of the Emigrant Committee, in connection with the Marine Bible Society, each society furnishing half the amount of his salary.

The interest of the year's work lay in the reports of Rev. Mr. Burnett, of labours at the navy yard and naval stations; the operations of Rev. John Rudy among the German population of the city; and of Mr. L. P. Hubbard among emigrants. An interesting report was also presented by Messrs. Rand and G. T. Fox of their personal visitation in the sixth ward.

### 1837-1839.

During these three years, but little if any change occurred, except by simple enlargement, in any of the home operations of the society. The various committees performed the duties indicated by their titles, or specially imposed upon them. The Emigrant Committee, through its agent, Mr. Hubbard, did much marine work, but always in harmony with the Marine Bible Society. The Rev. Mr. Rudy continued

to distribute the Scriptures among the resident German population until 1839, and was a valued labourer in that field.

The supply of destitute families in the city continued to be chiefly made through the tract missionaries and distributors, under the supervision of the ward committees. In August (3d), 1837, the subject of this Society aiding in the support of the tract missionaries was mentioned in the Board, and laid over for a future time.

In the spring of 1839 (April 6th) the chairmen of the several ward committees were requested to report what arrangements had been made for the annual examination and supply of the different wards; and in October the Board, in view of the large amount of their debt to the Parent Society, resolved to suspend their usual distributions, "except among destitute families in the city," until that debt should be paid, unless under special directions from the Board.

Some important changes in the general system of the society's efforts also occurred during this period.

1st. At the first organization of the society, the supply of Sabbath schools with Bibles and Testaments as premiums, through the New York Sunday School Union, was assigned to it, and long regarded as its sole work. But in July, 1838, it was, on an application from the New York Sunday School Union, declared inexpedient to grant Bibles to that society



for use *as premiums*; and although in May, 1839, it was reported to the Board that the New York Female Bible Society had declined occupying any part of the Sabbath school field, the decision of 1838 was adhered to in acting upon an application in June (6th) of that year.

2d. The supply of the Western States with New Testaments for Sabbath schools was formally undertaken in 1830-31, through the American Sunday School Union, and, though a thousand miles distant, constituted at that time the only extensive and important field of the Society's operations. It extended in 1837 to the States of Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, and the Wisconsin Territory, to which grants were made at various times, forming an aggregate of 14,000 New Testaments. In 1839 this extra-territorial work had been silently but entirely abandoned.

3d. The formation of auxiliaries, which had often been looked to as one of the most important of the Society's modes of action, though results did not justify this, was also given up; the article relating to them being omitted from the constitution, and the standing committee on auxiliaries discontinued.

4th. The name of the Society was changed by striking out the prefix, "Young Men's," in the first article of the constitution.

5th. The second article of the constitution was amended so as to declare the sole object of the Society to be "the distribution of the Sacred Scrip-

tures without note or comment," instead of "to engage the co-operation of young persons" in such distribution.

In February (8th), 1839, the Committee of Ways and Means (Mr. A. R. Walsh, Chairman) were empowered to appoint the church committees, and receive their reports, which appointments have from that time devolved upon this committee as one of its regular duties.

That committee also submitted a resolution, which was adopted, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Parent Society be requested to recognize us as its representative for the public collection of its funds in this city, and also to acknowledge as coming through us any contributions from this city, which may be paid direct to their Treasurer.

Upon this subject a committee of conference was appointed (Messrs. A. R. Walsh, Fox, and Edwards), and the result is embodied in the following resolution reported by them at the May (2d) meeting and adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Board will cheerfully continue the annual collection of funds for the Bible Cause in the churches of this city, as intrusted to them by the resolution of the Parent Society of April 4th; and that they will faithfully improve every opportunity, with which God in his providence may favour them, to promote the Cause of the Bible, and make its saving truth universally known.

A. ROBERTSON WALSH,  
*Chairman.*

The importance of this subject was also urged in the annual report of that year, and its bearings upon

the interests of the Society, and on the general Bible Cause in this city, were discussed. A supplementary notice was also appended to the Annual Report, referring to the difficulties which had arisen in the collection of funds "from the several applications made to the Christian public by the societies occupying the various departments of this one great cause;" and the Report of 1840 announced "this Society as occupying the entire field; and being, with the exception of the Female Bible Society, the only collecting and distributing auxiliary of the American Bible Society in the city of New York."

#### 1840—1844.

Propositions had been made and negotiations entered into for an arrangement by which the Marine Bible Society, which had laboured in its peculiarly interesting department for nearly twenty-three years, should surrender its field of labour to this society. At the opening of the year 1840, those negotiations were closed, as implied in the supplementary notice mentioned above, and the Society assumed the duties and half the debt of the Marine Bible Society, the amount thus assumed being \$823 39; the Parent Society agreeing to cancel the other half, and the Marine Bible Society stipulating to pay over to the New York Bible Society all funds which might be received by them.

[The work thus assumed was conducted under the charge of the appropriate committee of our Board,

with associates from the Marine Bible Society until the close of 1849, when the appointment of associates ceased; since which the Marine Bible Society has had only a formal existence.]

“Seamen” being thus added to our list of objects, received much attention, and repaid, in the special interest connected with their supply, the labour it involved, the men often seeming eager and grateful for the Word of God.

The Marine work was re-organized at the opening of this year, and the shipping, coasters, &c., divided into districts, which were severally placed under charge of individual members of the committee, and the monthly details of their personal visitation of them, as laid before the Board, furnished matter of great interest to the Christian heart.

During these five years, no other striking change was made in the action of the Society, or in the objects to which its attention was directed. Certain small items of distribution to fire companies, &c., were thrown under the new head of “Sundries” in its reports, and a proposition was made to ascertain the practicability and propriety of supplying military companies. The supply of hotels was somewhat enlarged. Provision was made for supplying the poor blind on leaving the asylum. The Committee on Naval Stations visited and supplied foreign vessels of war entering our harbour.

In April (2d), 1840, the death of Timothy R. Green, long an active member of the Board, and but recently

President of the Society, was reported, and the following resolution, with others, was adopted :

*Resolved*, That his kind and courteous demeanour, his candour, his manly freedom from sectarian prejudice, his brotherly kindness to all who bore the name of his Master, his cool, discriminating judgment, his persevering devotion to the cause of our common faith, and the unbroken consistency of his Christian walk and conversation, while they made him eminently useful and beloved in life, have rendered his memory sacred and dear to the members of this Board.

Early in 1840, applications for Bibles from the New York Sunday School Union brought up the question of re-opening relations with that society, which had been postponed in April, 1836, in consequence of the donation of \$300 worth of Bibles to that Union by the Female Bible Society.

The committee on applications, to whom the subject was referred, presented the following resolutions at the meeting of June 4th, 1840 :

*Resolved*, That our society being the only local society connected with the American Bible Society, and the schools being supplied from no other source, it is our duty to grant supplies of Bibles and Testaments for the use of Sunday schools in this city.

*Resolved*, That it is desirable to furnish the schools through the Union or Society with which they are connected, and that those schools not so connected be furnished by a committee of this Board.

*Resolved*, That it is not expedient to grant supplies of Bibles and Testaments for premiums and rewards.

At the regular meeting of the Board, February 4th, 1841, the last resolution was reconsidered. The

Rev. Mr. Campfield addressed the Board upon the subject, and the following resolution was adopted by a vote of seventeen to sixteen :

*Resolved*, That the corresponding secretary be requested to inform the secretary of the New York Sunday School Union that this society are now prepared to furnish them with such Bibles and Testaments as they may require for rewards.

Grants were made accordingly.

In June (2d), 1842, reports of Bibles being put to improper uses came before the Board, and a committee of inquiry was appointed. The committee reported July 7th, and were requested to make further inquiries. The subject occupied the attention of the board at three consecutive meetings ; and from statements made in September (1st), it appeared that something more than \$500 worth of premium Bibles and Testaments had been granted within two years, besides common Bibles and Testaments to about an equal amount. The question lay over from September to January 5th, 1843, when the following resolutions were adopted :

*Resolved*, That for the future we discontinue the supply of premium Bibles and Testaments.

*Resolved*, That while we concur in the passage of the above resolution, we entertain no hostility to the interests of the New York Sunday School Union, nor wish to express any opinion adverse to the propriety of giving premiums by that institution ; but simply express the opinion of this Board, that the distribution of Bibles and Testaments for premiums to any Sunday school involves a principle at variance with the general object for which the society was organized ; viz., the supplying of the destitute with the Sacred Scriptures.

*Resolved*, That the corresponding secretary be requested to communicate the above resolutions to the New York Sunday School Union.

At the February (2d) meeting of the Board, 1843, an application, comprising premium and other Bibles and Testaments, was presented from the New York Sunday School Union, which was granted so far as consistent with the resolution adopted in January. A committee of gentlemen also appeared in behalf of the New York Sunday School Union, and requested a committee of conference, which was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Van Rensselaer, Edwards, and Blatchford. At the April meeting, the committee reported that they had fully discussed the subject in conference; and recommended that the Board adhere to its resolution of January 5th, which recommendation, "after a long and able discussion," was adopted. In June, 1844, a grant of 750 Bibles of the ordinary style was made to the Sunday School Union, and grants of similar Bibles and Testaments have been made annually since for the use of Sabbath schools, to the New York and other S. S. Unions or Boards. They sometimes reach the extent of 5,000 volumes in a year, but no detailed or specific reports are made to the Board of the mode in which these grants are disposed of.

In August, 1841, the subject of making grants of Bibles and Testaments in various parts of the country was presented, and the Board resolved to discontinue them. In May, 1842, it was proposed

to rescind this resolution; but the question being laid over until June, and the views of the Secretary of the Parent Society having been ascertained, the decision was adhered to, although not carried out strictly till near the close of 1843.

The system of direct grants to Sabbath schools outside of the city, thus discontinued, had existed almost from the first, and was entirely independent of those large consignments of New Testaments for the supply of the Western States which had been made through the American Sunday School Union from 1831 to 1839. Under it grants had at various times been made to Sabbath schools in the counties of Albany, Alleghany, Chautauque, Dutchess, Erie, Greene, Kings, Onondaga, Putnam, Rockland, Schoharie, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Wayne, Westchester, and others; in the States of Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; in North Carolina and Rhode Island, Mississippi and Connecticut, Michigan, and the Territories of Arkansas and Florida; in Lower Canada and Bermuda, and "an island in the St. Lawrence." (See Document F, Appendix.)

In 1841 (March and June) an arrangement was made with the Brooklyn Bible Society, by which they assumed the supply of the navy yard, while this society retained the duty of supplying National vessels lying there, or leaving the harbour.

In the finances some difficulties were met, and finally overcome. A resolution to raise \$4,000 as a



donation to the Parent Society was adopted in January (7th), 1841. This was accomplished, but left the society nearly \$2,000 in debt. Early in 1842 this subject was urged upon the attention of the Board, and members requested to exert themselves to obtain new subscribers, and in the collection of funds, exercising "careful economy in distribution." The Corresponding Secretary of the Parent Society addressed the board upon the subject in March (2d), 1843; and in May of that year the Rev. Mr. (now Bishop) Janes submitted the following resolution from the Parent Board, for the regulation of the financial relations of this Society with them:

*Resolved*, That the following plan for effecting collections in this city be recommended to the Board of Managers of the New York Bible Society, viz.: That the Parent Society make applications to individuals for donations, in sums of thirty dollars and upwards, on their own account exclusively; that the New York Bible Society make its public collections as usual, and applications for individual donations in sums less than thirty dollars; and that they be at liberty to ask the services of either of the Secretaries of this Board in presenting the Cause to the churches. In case any donation is received by this Board, under this arrangement, of a less sum than thirty dollars, the same shall be credited to the New York Bible Society in its account with the Parent Society; provided, it be understood that any subscriber be at liberty to designate to which society his donation shall be paid.

After a full discussion of the above resolution, it was, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the words, "in sums less than thirty dollars," be stricken out; and that the resolution thus amended be communicated to the Parent Board.

About this time, a cordial invitation was given to the Secretaries of the Parent Society to be present at the meetings of the board. A similar invitation was extended "to our co-labourers, the tract missionaries." An invitation also was received in November (2d), 1843, from the Philadelphia Bible Society, inviting the members of this Board to sit as corresponding members at their meetings when convenient; which was cordially reciprocated by a corresponding invitation to members of the Philadelphia Board.

The following resolution, presented by Mr. Dodge July 2d, 1840, and laid over from time to time, was taken up January 7th, 1841 :

*Resolved*, That in the future distribution of the Bible in the wards, the tract distributors be requested to make their applications for Bibles to the chairman through the tract agent; and that the committee attend in person to its delivery, keeping a record of the name and residence of those supplied.

After much discussion it was laid on the table; and, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the several ward committees be directed to ascertain, and report at the regular meeting in July next, that every destitute family in their wards has been supplied with a Bible.

In January (4th), 1844, Messrs. Sharpe, Walsh, and Blatchford were appointed a committee to "consider the propriety of appointing one or more colporteurs to be employed in this city, in the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures." It was also

*Resolved*, That the ward committees adopt such measures as shall enable them to make a final report of full supply of the wards at the meeting in May next.

The committee on colporteurs reported, in February (1st), resolutions approving of "the system of colportage in the distribution of the Bible," and for the appointment of a committee with authority to select, and employ for six months, a suitable person for the work. After prolonged discussion the subject was laid over to the March (7th) meeting, and then deferred until April (4th), when it was further discussed, and again laid over. At the May (2d) meeting, after full discussion, the resolutions, with an unimportant amendment, were adopted.

In June (6th) a committee of three (Messrs. Buck, Blatchford, and Sharpe) was appointed, "authorized to employ Conrad Rilling until the first day of November next, to distribute the Bible chiefly among the resident and emigrant population speaking either the German or the French language." It was also resolved that the work should be prosecuted by him "without reference to any sectarian views;" also that he be designated as "the Distributing Agent." Reports of his operations were presented from month to month to the Board by the Committee. In November (7th) he was re-appointed for six months, and with but slight change in the sphere of his labours, by being limited to emigrants on arrival, has continued until now a faithful and devoted labourer in this field.

## 1845—1849.

At the anniversary in 1844, some remarks were made by a speaker, to which exception seems to have been publicly taken; for at the first meeting of the board thereafter (December 5th, 1844), resolutions were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be published, disavowing responsibility for the individual opinions of speakers or members; affirming strongly the singleness of the Society's object as declared in the second article of the constitution; regretting "the occasion, or supposed occasion," of offence; and expressing earnestly the hope "that nothing may ever occur to interrupt that love and harmony which ought to be found, if anywhere upon earth, among those who are associated for the distribution of God's Holy Word."

At the opening of the year 1845, a correspondence occurred between the Episcopal Church Committee and various clergymen of that communion, which gave promise of good to the interests of the society.

In March, 1846, the propriety of seeking to obtain collections in Unitarian churches was suggested as an inquiry, and laid over until the April meeting, when it was "indefinitely postponed."

At a special meeting held February 19th, 1846, Mr. Blatchford, from a committee previously appointed, presented a remonstrance to the Legislature of this State against granting a charter to the Baptist Bible Society under the title of "American and

Foreign Bible Society," which was read and adopted as the remonstrance of this Board, and the president was charged with the duty of transmitting it to the Legislature.

In the course of this year some thirty of the city hotels were supplied with Bibles for their public and private parlours, and for their lodging rooms, the distribution reaching to 2,237 volumes. Volunteers for the army in California and Mexico also received supplies.

In 1847 an application was received from the N. Y. S. S. Union "for a grant of Bibles to be distributed as premiums," which was respectfully declined, as being violative of the fundamental object of the society,—“the supply of the destitute with the Scriptures.”

Although in 1845 the Marine and Emigrant Committee continued united in name, the work of supplying emigrants was chiefly done by Mr. Rilling, under the direction of a "Committee on Special Distribution," and the results were separately reported at the anniversary.

In 1846 the latter committee became the "Emigrant Committee," Mr. Rilling continuing its Distributing Agent; while Mr. Hubbard laboured under the direction of the Marine Committee.

March 4th, 1847, "The Emigrant and Agency Committee were empowered to employ Mr. Henry Goubelman as distributor among the German and French population of the upper part of the city."

Mr. Goubelman has been re-appointed from time to time, being transferred, in December, 1852, from the Emigrant Committee to that for the supply of the destitute resident population, and still continues to labour promiscuously among the French and German population.

In June (7th), 1848, in view of the increasing immigration from Ireland, the Emigrant Committee was "authorized and requested to employ a suitable agent to labour among the Irish emigrants." To this duty Mr. Stephen Smyth was appointed, and has been continued by re-appointment in the same field to the present time.

In February (3d) of this year, the supply of the Seaman's Retreat, Staten Island, was made a part of the duty of the Marine Committee.

In August, 1846, a communication was received from Rev. Dr. Brigham, Secretary of the Parent Society, "asking a committee of conference in adjusting some plan respecting the retail distribution from the depository." Messrs. A. R. Walsh and G. H. Williams were appointed as the committee; and at the meeting in September (3d) the following preamble and resolution were reported by that committee, and adopted by the Board:

That in view of the increase of the sale of Bibles in the Depository of the American Bible Society, thereby making a large inroad upon the time of its Agents, and as according to the policy of the Parent Institution, as applied to other parts of our country, this is peculiarly the work of its auxiliaries; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we accede to the proposition of the American Bible Society communicated this evening; and that we *will*, from and after the first of November next, assume the duty of conducting the sales of Bibles, and the distribution of Bibles, to life members and directors of the American Bible Society, at an office in the Bible House to be provided by the Parent Institution, under the supervision of the Purchasing Committee.

The subject of supplying the destitute resident population commanded much attention and labour throughout this period.

At the meeting held January 2d, 1845, Messrs. A. R. Walsh, Dr. Post, and E. H. Blatchford were appointed a special committee "to prepare printed instructions for Bible distributors, and also a blank form for the monthly returns of the tract missionaries." The Committee of Ways and Means also reported the issue of a circular to the churches giving a condensed account of our operations. Which of these documents gave offence is not expressly stated, but at the March meeting explanations were asked by a committee from the tract missionaries, who had been led to regard "the circular" "in the light of a censure upon their proceedings," which was declared to be "entirely foreign to the design of this Board."

At the January and March meetings in 1846, the importance of this department of the society's work was urged, and the limited amount of distribution remarked upon, and on motion of Mr. Walsh a committee was appointed "to inquire if any, and what improvements can be made in the present system."

In April (2d) the committee reported a resolution to appoint a committee of three to take charge of the "special distribution and sale of the Holy Scriptures throughout our city," "with power to employ a suitable agent." The resolution was adopted, and Messrs. A. R. Walsh, Titus, and Conover appointed as such committee. The committee failed to find a suitable agent until in November (30th), when they reported that the services of the Rev. Mr. Wolcott, one of the Agents of the Parent Society, had been engaged for this work.

At the meeting in January (7th), 1847, an interesting report of the labours of Mr. Wolcott in the visitation of the tenth ward was submitted, and the general arrangements of the committee for the work were stated and approved.

Statements were made from month to month of the progress of the work, until at the meeting in September (2d) it was reported as completed with the following results :

|                                     |                       |                          |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Number of families visited          | - - - -               | 18,724                   |
| "                                   | " found destitute - - | 3,045 = 16 1-4 per cent. |
| "                                   | " supplied - -        | 1,808                    |
| "                                   | " who refused -       | 1,135 =                  |
| Amount received for sales           | - - - -               | \$223 24                 |
| Cost of gratuitous distribution     | - - - -               | \$515 88                 |
| Total number of volumes distributed | - - - -               | 2,574                    |

At the first meeting of the new Board, in December (7th), 1848, a resolution was submitted by Mr. Blatchford, that "in view of the responsibility we



have assumed, it is expedient to re-explore this city through agents to be specially employed for that purpose," which was referred to a committee, consisting of Messrs. Blatchford, H. K. Bull, Kingsley, Davis, and Underhill.

The committee reported at the next meeting (January 4th, 1849), recommending the re-exploration of a single ward by the present agents of the Board, as a test of the necessity and warrant for full re-exploration. The recommendation was adopted, and referred to the same committee for execution.

At the February (1st) meeting of the Board, the committee reported that they had selected the tenth ward for re-exploration, and that of 2,987 families visited by the agents, 200, or about seven per cent., were found entirely destitute of the Scriptures. The following resolution was submitted by them, and adopted :

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed, with power to select and employ a suitable person or persons to act as distributing agents for the society, whose duty it shall be thoroughly to explore the city, in the course of a year, and as far as possible, to keep it supplied with the Scriptures, under the supervision of an appropriate committee.

In the month of March, the committee, which had been continued in the charge of this work, employed Alexander Watson as Distributing Agent, who, with the exception of a recess of six months in 1853-54, has continued until now to labour un-

der the direction of the "Committee on the Supply of the Destitute Resident Population."

In the summer of 1849, also, the Rev. Mr. Hedstrom began his valued gratuitous labours among the Norwegian and Danish immigrants, which are still continued.

### 1850—1857.

From 1850 onward to the present time, no new department has been added to the labours of this society, nor any new principles of action been applied. All changes have been mere matters of detail or of progress.

In January of the former year, L. P. Hubbard was re-engaged to labour exclusively in the marine work, chiefly among seamen. William Irving was employed as clerk in the depository, and Rev. Mr. Potter as an additional agent to labour among the destitute resident population, which office he resigned at the end of ten months, having accepted a call to preach in the West. In May, Mr. Hubbard was compelled by sickness to give up his field of labour, and shortly after resigned his connection with the Society. In June, Mr. John S. Pierson was appointed Marine Agent, which position he still holds, and Mr. Horace Hunt was appointed General Agent, with charge of the depository. In the same month, the President, E. H. Blatchford, Esq., tendered his resignation on account of failing health; but, upon the unanimous request of the Board, it was not pressed.

In the report of this year, the distribution by ward committees and city clergy was included in the statistics of the supply of destitute resident population. (See Document E, Appendix.)

In June, 1851, the Committee of Ways and Means was instructed to confer with the Parent Society on a new "plan of collections in this city in aid of the Bible Cause." The conference resulted in the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Tuttle as a collecting agent for this city, which arrangement subsisted but for a short time, when the Society fell back upon the system previously pursued from its origin; depending, in the matter of finances, upon receipts from annual and life members and donors, collections in churches, and sales of books, with such legacies as Christian love may commit to it for disbursement. (See Document D, Appendix.)

In March, 1853, it was ascertained and reported from a committee of the Board, by Mr. W. Allen Butler, that "the amount contributed to the general Bible Cause by the city of New York, in 1852, was \$30,358 70; of which \$10,246 71, exclusive of donations, came through the New York Bible Society." The financial relations of the Society with the Parent Board, and to the Christian public, have been for more than twenty years matters of serious consideration, and sometimes of concern, in the Board, without as yet reaching a satisfactory adjustment.

In the course of 1852, the hotels of the city, which

during the previous ten years had been supplied with Bibles, for parlours and lodging rooms, to the number of 6,243, were revisited, and not more than one or two cases of abuse of the Bible were found.

In 1852, the Committee on Supply of Destitute Resident Population reported the exploration and supply of the city completed, with the following results:

| Ward.  | Families visited. | Families found totally destitute of the Holy Scriptures. | Percentage of total destitution. | Families that refused the Bible. | Distribution gratis.          |                                  |  | Distribution by sale. |                 | Total distribution by sale and gift. | Amount received from sales. | Cost of gratuitous and semi-gratuitous distribution. |
|--------|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
|        |                   |  |                                  |                                  | Bibles to destitute families. | Bibles to destitute individuals. | New Testaments to destitute families or individuals. | Bibles.               | New Testaments. |                                      |                             |  |
| 1st.   | 1,838             | 508  | 27½                              | 317                              | 159                           | 8                                | 109  | 20                    | 25              | 321                                  | \$8 81                      | \$52 69½   |
| 2 & 4  | 3,715             | 951  | 25½                              | 463                              | 220                           | 13                               | 91   | 43                    | 9               | 376                                  | 12 04                       | 73 36  |
| 3d.    | 1,249             | 144  | 12                               | 74                               | 85                            | 16                               | 81   | 39                    | 10              | 231                                  | 12 17                       | 36 11½   |
| 5th.   | 3,835             | 462  | 12                               | 172                              | 247                           | 17                               | 179  | 98                    | 67              | 608                                  | 35 91½                      | 97 27½   |
| 6th.   | 3,725             | 1,178  | 31½                              | 411                              | 385                           | 21                               | 237  | 75                    | 22              | 740                                  | 20 81½                      | 143 06½  |
| 7th.   | 4,235             | 698  | 16½                              | 334                              | 133                           | 80                               | 277  | 117                   | 105             | 712                                  | 46 43½                      | 80 13  |
| 8th.   | 5,833             | 578  | 10                               | 171                              | 193                           | 22                               | 58   | 211                   | 28              | 512                                  | 58 69½                      | 76 79½   |
| 9th.   | 6,465             | 483  | 7½                               | 122                              | 200                           | 222                              | 248  | 442                   | 412             | 1,524                                | 167 75½                     | 146 81½  |
| *10th. | 2,987             | 200  | 6¾                               | 50                               | 150                           | ..                               | ..   | 24                    | 92              | 266                                  | 11 83                       | 48 02  |
| 11th.  | 7,920             | 1,225  | 15½                              | 292                              | 562                           | 63                               | 446  | 275                   | 425             | 1,771                                | 122 25¾                     | 285 05½  |
| 12th.  | 1,472             | 295  | 20                               | 100                              | 89                            | 69                               | 151  | 99                    | 86              | 494                                  | 32 00½                      | 61 56  |
| 13th.  | 4,217             | 609  | 14½                              | 191                              | 239                           | 41                               | 244  | 100                   | 78              | 702                                  | 39 25                       | 123 26   |
| 14th.  | 4,220             | 672  | 16                               | 196                              | 220                           | 99                               | 149  | 147                   | 155             | 770                                  | 64 49½                      | 111 14½  |
| 15th.  | 3,038             | 178  | 5½                               | 51                               | 82                            | 147                              | 84   | 98                    | 67              | 478                                  | 40 97½                      | 71 06¾   |
| 16th.  | 10,942            | 1,526  | 14                               | 454                              | 460                           | 258                              | 499  | 668                   | 663             | 2,548                                | 232 92                      | 284 03½  |
| 17th.  | 7,195             | 1,040  | 14½                              | 296                              | 485                           | 186                              | 360  | 216                   | 336             | 1,583                                | 106 29                      | 274 11   |
| 18th.  | 6,371             | 1,036  | 16¼                              | 306                              | 332                           | 271                              | 464  | 276                   | 224             | 1,567                                | 113 29                      | 207 08½  |
| 19th.  | 3,751             | 854  | 22¾                              | 182                              | 316                           | 98                               | 420  | 178                   | 199             | 1,211                                | 78 83½                      | 177 41½  |
| Total  | 83,008            | 12,621   | †15½                             | 4,182                            | 4,557                         | 1,631                            | 4,097  | 3,126                 | 3,003           | 16,414                               | 1,254 77½                   | 2,349 00½  |

\* Incomplete. † Average percentage.

The statements of this table are the results of a thorough exploration of the whole city, from the Battery to Kingsbridge, made by the agents of the Society, carrying the Bible from house to house, and from family to family, through all classes of the community; the Scriptures being furnished to families, to domestics, to young persons in workshops, and to children, as widely and freely as in the judgment of those agents it could be wisely done.

In the year 1834, the destitutions of the city were reported as thoroughly supplied by a distribution of 1,499 volumes; in 1847 (see page 68), with 2,574 volumes, 1,808 of which were furnished to destitute families; in the above, from 1849 to 1852, by a distribution of 16,414 volumes, of which 4,557 were furnished to destitute families.

At the close of this year, Mr. Goubelman was transferred from the Emigrant Committee to the Committee on Supply of the Destitute Resident Population.

In November, 1854, the revisitation of about one-third of the city had been effected, and a comparison of the results with those ascertained in the same wards, as reported in 1852, showed an increase of destitution of the Bible of less than one per cent., with rather more than a corresponding increase in the families supplied; a decrease of fifteen and one-third per cent. in the refusals of the Bible; and an increase of 4,114 volumes in the total distribution. Unhappily, it also showed that a large influx of

such families had occurred as were unable to read ; and who, therefore, were left unsupplied.

In March, 1853, Mr. Hunt resigned his position as General Agent. In April, when his resignation took effect, Mr. J. B. M'Comb was appointed in his stead. At this time the Parent Society was about removing from Nassau Street to the new Bible House, Astor Place ; and at the March meeting of the Board, it was

*Resolved*, That it is expedient that arrangements be made with the American Bible Society for the continuance of the depository under charge of this Society, and for suitable rooms for the sale of Bibles in their new Bible House. Also,

*Resolved*, That it be referred to the Purchasing Committee to carry out their arrangements with the Parent Society, with power.

In April, the committee reported that they had consummated the arrangements with the American Bible Society for the depository in the new building, and that they were authorized by said society to fit up the room assigned to them under the direction of Mr. Hyde, and that the present depository arrangements, originally made in 1847, should be continued. The depository was placed under charge of the General Agent, Mr. M'Comb.

In May (5th), a letter was read to the Board, from the Corresponding Secretary of the American Bible Society, "respecting the sale of Bibles in the city of New York," and asking a committee of conference to meet a similar committee of the Parent

Board. The committee was appointed (Messrs. Underhill, Smith, Kingsley, and Ide); and, at the meeting in June, reported a remonstrance to the Parent Board, against the action of that body in changing the consummated arrangement in reference to the depository. This was adopted by the Board, and the committee directed further to confer with any committee that Board might appoint. At the same meeting, a communication was received from the Corresponding Secretary of the Parent Society "in reference to a room for the sale of Bibles by this Society." At the regular meetings in July, August, and October, this question occupied the Board, the original resolutions, on the subject of the depository, adopted September 3, 1846, being read in August, and in October a reply from the Board of the Parent Society to the remonstrance adopted in June, in which the Parent Board adhered to its decision to retain the room for retail sales under its own control, but expressed a willingness to afford this Society "every reasonable facility" for making similar sales.

A special meeting was held October 28, 1853, with reference to this matter. The President opened the meeting by reading the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, and remarked that, in consideration of the important bearing which the action of this meeting might have upon the interests of the Society, it had been thought proper to engage in prayer before proceeding to business. Whereupon, the

board united in prayer with Mr. De Forest ; when the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

*Resolved*, That this Board deem it inexpedient to establish a depository for the retail sale of books, while the same field is occupied by the Parent Board.

The second resolution, after a very calm and protracted discussion, during which it was again read, together with the report, was unanimously adopted ; viz. :

*Resolved*, That we respectfully submit to the American Bible Society the propriety of its assuming the entire charge of the Bible Cause within the city and county of New York.

At a meeting of the Board, held November 18th, a communication from the Board of the Parent Society, in reply to the foregoing, and re-affirming the previous views and decisions of that Board, was read, and laid on the table.

At the first meeting of the new Board, December 1st, 1853, the aforesaid communication was taken from the table, and, with the whole subject, referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. De Forest, Ide, Underhill, Scott, W. Allen Butler, Backus, and Hayward. At the January (1854) meeting, the committee reported, re-affirming the first resolution of October 28, 1853, and dismissing the further consideration of the communication of the Parent Board referred to them.

The questions involved in this matter remained without essential modification until May, 1855 ; when, on motion of Mr. Peter Carter, the Purchasing



and General Distribution Committee were authorized to hire and fit up rooms for a depository at No. 7 Beekman Street, and engage a suitable person as General Agent. At the regular meeting in June, the committee reported that the depository would be ready by the 15th inst., and that the services of Mr. Nathan Camp had been engaged as General Agent.

[As this work is passing through the press, the Board has decided to relinquish its "Depository and Sales-room" in May, 1858, on account of the expense to the Society which it involves.]

In April, 1855, Mr. W. Allen Butler communicated a letter just received by him as Corresponding Secretary from the Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in reply to a circular which, as directed by the Board in June, 1854, he had addressed to that society, and to various local Bible societies at British ports, "on the subject of the supply of emigrants sailing from such ports." The letter breathed a Christian spirit; admitting some remissness in the past, stating the new means to be adopted to meet the demands of the work, suggesting some peculiar local difficulties in the way of making them completely effective, and cordially thanking this Society for the zeal and devotedness of its past efforts in this department of its labours. The Board ordered the correspondence entered in full upon the journal.

In pleasant coincidence with this was the new

arrangement, which commenced in August of this year, by which Castle Garden was made the exclusive landing place for immigrants, thus very greatly facilitating the labours of our agents, and securing much more thoroughness in the supply.

At the regular meeting June 5th, 1856, a detailed report of its operations was received from the Marine Committee, particularly in relation to the combination of tract distribution with its work of Bible distribution on board ships. After some discussion, resolutions were adopted approving the general plan and execution of the work, and recognizing the importance and utility of permitting an incidental distribution of tracts by any of its agents, but declaring that "in the judgment of the Board tract distribution should be strictly incidental;" and that "great care and discrimination are necessary, on the part of the Marine Committee and its Agent," to avoid a departure from this principle.

In the course of 1857, Mr. Byrne was employed to labour among seamen, which he did with great zeal and interest for a short time; but in July his health demanded a return to his native country, and the Board parted with him, with resolutions of regret, and assurance of interest and esteem. Mr. Parker was also employed for some months in the course of this year in visiting destitute families.

At the meeting held January 8th, 1857, on motion of H. G. De Forest, it was

*Resolved,* That with a view to mutual encouragement and

edification this Board invite the former officers of the Board of Managers, who may be accessible, to meet with them at the next regular meeting of the Board, on Thursday, the 5th day of February, at 7½ P. M., and that the Corresponding Secretary extend this invitation as far as may be practicable.

This invitation called together a number of the former members and officers of the Board, among whom were three members of the original Board. The president expressed the pleasure felt by the Board in meeting the older friends and officers of the Society, and made some interesting statements in reference to its progress since they had ceased to be connected with it. Earnest prayers for a continued blessing upon the Society were offered by those who had often prayed for it in other years. Interesting addresses were made, and impressive reminiscences communicated; all the older members referring particularly and with much feeling to the hallowed Christian influence pervading the earlier meetings of the Board, making them, in the language of the Hon. Judge Slosson, "precious means of grace."

The whole meeting had the character of a happy and inspiring Christian reunion.

A letter was read from Norman White, Esq., a former president, of which the following is an extract:

It is nearly thirty years since I first became associated with others in the management of the Young Men's New York Bible Society, and I can truly say that I recur to no period of my life with recollections in all respects so agreeable as while discharg-

ing my duties in that connection. It is almost twenty years since I was disqualified by your constitution, as it then stood, from longer serving in the management; yet I have watched your progress and witnessed your prosperity with unfeigned satisfaction. Your society from small beginnings has gone on with steady perseverance, increasing in favour and prosperity until its annual income has arisen from a few hundred dollars to more than twenty thousand.

But we look for greater things. There is a growing feeling that the Bible is the Book which, under Providence, is to be relied upon as the great instrumentality in the salvation of the world. More vigorous efforts are demanded in this Cause.

The disastrous monetary panic of October, 1857, found the Society largely in debt to the American Bible Society; and, for a time, it was apprehended that it would not be possible to close the year free from liabilities, as had been uniformly done since 1850; but the friends of the Bible, within and without the Board, made an earnest effort to this end, and accomplished it.

At the close of this year, Mr. Henry Ide retired from the Presidency of the Society, and was succeeded by Mr. J. W. Underhill.

In the hasty survey which we have thus taken of the growth of our Society, it is observable that its later years afford but meagre materials for history, unless we should amplify details which are condensed in statistical tables, inserted in the Appendix to this work, or embody here the current reports of the actual field work of its agents, extracts from which usually accompany its annual reports.

Beginning in 1824 by supplying the New York Sunday School Union with the Scriptures for bestowment in the schools under its care as premiums and rewards, the Society continued to labour almost exclusively in this direction until 1829, when the Humane and Criminal Institutions of our city began to be furnished. The soldiers at our military posts were first supplied in 1831. In 1832 the supply of the destitute resident population was begun by ward committees of the Board, and through grants to the clergy of the city. The supply of the naval stations in our harbour, the distribution to immigrants, and that among the seamen of our commercial marine, domestic and foreign, were undertaken in 1834. From 1840 to 1844 various small items were added. Hotels, engine companies, &c., received such grants as seemed desirable and judicious. In the former year the supply of the Sabbath schools connected with the New York S. S. Union, which had for a while been accomplished through other agencies, was resumed; and in the latter year a special supply of destitute resident families was made. In 1845 the marine work and the supply of immigrants, which for ten years had been combined, were placed in charge of distinct committees; and since that time the practice of sending small lots of Bibles, &c., in various languages, by sea-going vessels, for distribution in foreign ports, and to passengers on the return voyage, has been adopted by the Marine

Committee with interesting and valuable results. In 1847 the whole city was explored, and some 1,800 destitute families supplied (see page 68); and in 1849 a standing committee on the supply of the destitute resident population was appointed, charged with the periodical re-exploration of the city, and the supply of its destitutions. This seemed to complete the Society's necessary agencies for its various fields of distribution.

The means of the Society have kept pace with the enlargement of its sphere of labour, and the increase of the objects of its charities. In the first year of its existence its receipts were \$273; in 1857, independent of sales, they were \$14,659 11. Its issues in 1824 were 583 volumes, almost exclusively in English. In 1857 they had grown to 67,020 volumes, in more than twenty different languages; the grand total of its issues in thirty-four years reaching 1,140,380 volumes. Its donations to the American Bible Society, since it became auxiliary in 1829, have amounted to \$42,099 93; or about an average of \$1,450 annually.

Though the Society has thus grown, as we have seen, from the very feeblest infancy to strength, it has not yet been permitted to attain its full and proper development. The machinery of the movements demanded in our work is not yet perfect. Three things are important, if not essential, to its future competency for the work, to which, in the natural course of events, the Society must be called:—

1st. To be entirely rid of its original defect of indirection in its proper work; to require and receive a direct account of every volume or package of volumes it sends forth, so far as they may be properly traceable by any agency concerned in their distribution. There are inherent and invincible difficulties in the way of equitably accomplishing the highest attainable good by any other process.

2d. That, like her sister auxiliaries throughout the Union, she alone may be regarded as the Bible Society of the region over which her labours extend; that all funds raised within her proper limits be collected by her, or credited to her, unless on special request of contributors to the contrary; that, in like manner, the distribution of the Scriptures within those limits, whether by sale or grant, be left with her; all applications for grants being referred to her decision, which decision, unless in extraordinary cases, should be final. Under such a system, frequent occasions would be found and embraced for the manifestation of mutual confidence and liberality between Parent and Auxiliary. It is alike honourable to the Society and grateful to the lovers of peace that, notwithstanding the conviction upon the minds of its friends that its natural and equitable position has not hitherto been accorded to it, its abundant labours have been nobly and cheerfully performed; but it is not on this account the less, but the more desirable and

proper that the occasion for that conviction should be removed. We love the American Bible Society, and pray that nothing may ever be permitted to interfere with its advancement in honour and usefulness. But while that stands out, owned and honoured, for the Union and the world, this Society should stand with equal prominence, though not with equal grandeur, for the city and county of New York—a crown of glory to its Christian patriots.

3d. A permanent and free location for her depository and business offices. Thirty-four years of earnest labours for the moral and spiritual benefit of our city, extending themselves, as Providence has opened the way, into every penal and philanthropic institution in our midst; to the homes of misery, and haunts of vice, which, like plague spots, are still found among us; to every family of our multitudinous and commingled population; to the strangers as they come in crowds to seek a happier home than the Old World afforded; to every vessel that floats upon our waters; and to many of these committing further “ventures” of God’s Word, that they may carry them to the distant and the destitute, giving thus withal a character to our seamen and our commerce of which even the Empire City may be proud;—labours such as these constitute a claim, in behalf of this Society, to be provided with a “local habitation.”

The Christian citizens of New York have done wisely and rightly in providing for the American



Bible and Tract Societies, almost from the inception of those grand Christian enterprises; and why should not a modicum of the same Christian liberality be invoked to furnish a home for the child whom they have nourished—for their own “son that serveth them” in the distribution of the Word of God, the Bread of Life, to the perishing in their midst? It is not too much to say that the name of the man, whose heart the Lord shall stir up to do this good thing, will fill the brightest line upon the enduring scroll that bears the record of the benefactors of New York to the future generations of her sons.

In reference to those aids needed by the Society which no position can supply, nor money purchase, we prefer not to speak our own words, but to gather counsel from the wisdom of the past. The report of this Society for 1842 truly remarks:

The Board are called upon to look at this subject with the eye of faith. They should regard it in the light of prophecy; they should undertake the work, armed with the “promises” of God; and thoroughly persuaded that, through the instrumentality of the Gospel alone, either read or preached, is the kingdom of Satan to be upturned, and the kingdom of grace to be established. It is to be feared that we do not regard this work sufficiently as a spiritual enterprise. In the collection and disbursement of moneys, and in the rough encounters we are sometimes subjected to in the course of distribution, we are naturally inclined to lose sight, in a measure, of the great end and design of our association; to wit, the furtherance of Christ’s spiritual kingdom in the earth. There is danger here which requires watchfulness. We are too apt, again, to be

discouraged at not beholding visibly the fruits of our labours. This should not be. Bible distribution is a work of "faith." We must enter upon it, believing in Him who hath said: "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

The following extract from the last Annual Report by the esteemed Timothy R. Green (presented in 1832), is as entirely suited to the condition and circumstances of the Society to-day as when written a quarter of a century ago, and embodies as truly the sentiments of its Board of Managers:

In conclusion, your Board would express its conviction that whatever benefits to the community may heretofore have flowed from this Society, they are the results of close dependence upon the Answerer of prayer. His shrouding providence has again and again broken away, and offered from the bosoms of its opening clouds fields of duty new and large, and full of promise to our humble toil. He has enabled us more than once to reap where we had ourselves sown—a favour which the "Lord of the harvest" bestows upon few of his labourers. Our whole history confirms the testimony of the prophet, "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps;" and yet, our cause has been almost undeviatingly onward, if not continually and uniformly accelerated. While we recognize the arm which has been stretched out to direct and to uphold us, we would cling to it anew, and confide in its strength. We call upon all who have watched our progress, and especially on all whose aid hath furthered it, to inscribe our name and our efforts upon the scroll of their daily supplication, with which they enter the presence chamber of the Highest, and draw near to the throne of his grace; and there to give them, with their own holiest and fondest hopes, into the hand of the one Great Intercessor.

# APPENDIX.

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## DOCUMENT A.

### ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION,

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 22, 1823.

#### ARTICLE I.

THE Society shall be called the Young Men's New York Bible Society, and shall be auxiliary to the New York Bible Society.

#### ARTICLE II.

The object of this Society shall be to engage the co-operation of young persons in the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures, and to raise funds for this purpose, and in aid of the funds of the Parent Society.

#### ARTICLE III.

This Society shall use its endeavours to promote the formation of young men's, youth's, and juvenile Auxiliary Bible Societies, wherever a field may be opened for the same.

#### ARTICLE IV.

The Bibles and Testaments, circulated by this Society, shall be purchased of the New York Bible Society; and the surplus funds of this institution, at the close of the year, shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the New York Bible Society.

## ARTICLE V.

Every person under thirty years of age, subscribing one dollar and fifty cents annually, shall be a member of this Society; and each subscriber of ten dollars at one time shall be a member of this Society till he has attained the age of thirty years.

## ARTICLE VI.

Every person subscribing twenty dollars at one time shall be an honorary member of this Society for life, and shall be entitled as such to attend the meetings of the Board of Managers, and at such meetings to express his opinion in the usual manner of debate; but he shall not be allowed to vote.

## ARTICLE VII.

The President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary of the New York Bible Society shall be, ex officio, honorary members of this institution.

## ARTICLE VIII.

The affairs of this Society shall be conducted by a President, six Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, and thirty Managers, of whom none shall be less than eighteen years of age.

## ARTICLE IX.

There shall be a meeting of the Society on the third Monday in October, at which time the election for officers for the ensuing year shall take place, and the annual report shall be presented by the Board of Managers, and arrangements made for the celebration of the anniversary, which shall take place on the third Monday in November, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

## ARTICLE X.

The Board of Managers shall meet at least once every month, shall fill their own vacancies, make their own by-laws, call their own meetings, and, with a majority of two-thirds, call a special general meeting of the Society.

## ARTICLE XI.

Every member of this institution, arriving at the age of thirty years, shall receive a certificate addressed to the President of the New York Bible Society, stating the amount of donation or subscription paid by him; of the issuing of which certificate the Secretary of the New York Bible Society shall be advised by the Corresponding Secretary of the institution, in order that the member, whose connexion with this institution is thus dissolved with the Auxiliary, may be invited to transfer his relation to the Parent Institution.

## ARTICLE XII.

Every meeting, either of the Society, or of the Board of Managers, shall be opened with reading a portion of the Scriptures; and the proceedings of every meeting of the Board of Managers shall be duly recorded and signed by the Secretary; and the proceedings of every meeting of the Society shall be signed by the Chairman.

## ARTICLE XIII.

Every member of this Society shall be entitled to receive one Bible gratuitously at the time of his subscription, and also at all times to purchase what Bibles and Testaments he may wish at cost.

## ARTICLE XIV.

Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Society, and seven members shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Managers.

## ARTICLE XV.

This Constitution shall not be altered without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting of the Society, or at a special meeting of the Society, called by a notice given in four of the principal public papers of the city, which notice shall specify that an alteration in the Constitution is proposed.

This Constitution was amended at the second anniversary of the Society, held at the City Hotel, December 26th, 1825, articles 5th and 6th (original) being replaced by a single article, 5th, as follows:

“Article 5th. Every person subscribing one dollar and fifty cents annually shall be a member of this Society; and each subscriber of fifteen dollars at one time shall be a member for life.”

Article 8th (original), which became article 7th by the above change, was amended by limiting the age of officers to not “less than eighteen, *or more than thirty-five* years of age.”

Article 9th (original), which became 8th, was amended as follows:

“Article 8th. The annual meeting shall be held on the last Thursday in November, at which time the annual report shall be presented by the Board of Managers, and an election of officers for the ensuing year shall take place.”

Article 11th (original) was omitted.

Article 15th (original), which became 13th, was amended by striking out all after the first clause, leaving the Constitution alterable only by a two-thirds vote “of the members present at a regular meeting of the Society.”

At the fifth anniversary of the Society, November 17th, 1828, several amendments are said to have been adopted, but are not recorded. They were no doubt changes in the 1st, 4th, and 6th (7th original) articles, in view of becoming auxiliary to the Amer-

ican Bible Society, which occurred in March following.

At the seventh anniversary of the Society, in November, 1830, the Constitution was amended by inserting the words "*or more*," after "one dollar and fifty cents," in the 5th article.

At its ninth anniversary, in November, 1832, article 2d (original) was amended by inserting the words "*without note or comment*," after the word "Scriptures."

Article 3d (original) was amended by substituting the words "*every exertion*" for "its endeavours," in the first clause.

Article 5th (original 6th) was amended by inserting the words "*or more*," after "fifteen dollars," in the last clause.

Article 7th (original 8th) was amended by increasing the number of Managers to "*forty*," and adding to it the provision that "one half of the whole number of Managers shall go out of office at the expiration of each year, but shall be re-eligible."

Article 8th (original 9th) was so amended as to leave the particular day "in the month of November," on which the annual meeting might be held, to the pleasure of the Board of Managers.

Article 10th (original 11th) was omitted, and by the omission articles 11th and 12th (original 12th and 13th) became articles 10th and 11th.

Article 13th (original 15th) was numbered 14th, and the two following new articles placed before it:

“Article 12th. The Managers shall have the power of constituting such persons as they deem proper honorary members of the Society.”

“Article 13th. The Corresponding Secretaries of all societies auxiliary to this shall be considered, ex officio, members of the Board of Managers.” The word “corresponding” being omitted in the article, as printed in the annual report.

At a meeting held November 8th, 1838, article 8th (original 9th) was amended by inserting the word “*January*” instead of the word “November;” and the fifteenth and sixteenth anniversaries of the Society were held in that month.

At its sixteenth anniversary, held January 15th, 1840, the following amendments were made :

Article 1st was amended by striking out the words “*Young Men’s*.”

Article 2d was amended by omitting the words “*to engage the co-operation of young persons in,*” after “be” in the first line.

Article 3d was omitted.

Article 4th. In this article a redundant clause was omitted.

Article 7th (original 8th), which became article 6th, was amended by inserting “*twenty-one*” and “*forty*” years as the minimum and maximum of the age of officers, instead of “*eighteen*” and “*thirty-five*” years.

In article 8th (original 9th), which became article 7th, the word “November” was restored.



Article 10th (original 13th), which became article 9th, was amended by striking off the provision in reference to the purchase of books by members.

Article 13th, added in 1832, was omitted, and article 14th became article 12th.

At its thirty-first anniversary, held in November, 1854, the Constitution of the Society was amended as follows:

Article 6th, by inserting the word "*fifty*" instead of "forty," as the number of Managers to be annually elected.

Article 7th, by adding a provision that "in case of failure to elect the whole number of Managers at such annual meeting, the Board of Managers elected at such meeting shall have power to fill all vacancies."

The Constitution now stands as follows:

## CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.

THIS Society shall be called the NEW YORK BIBLE SOCIETY, Auxiliary to the *American Bible Society*.

### ARTICLE II.

The object of this Society shall be the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures without note or comment, and the raising of funds for this purpose, and in aid of the funds of the Parent Society.

### ARTICLE III.

The Bibles and Testaments circulated by this Society shall be purchased of the American Bible Society, and its surplus funds shall be paid over to the Parent Society.

## ARTICLE IV.

Every person subscribing \$1 50, or more, annually, shall be a Member of this Society; and each subscriber of \$15, or more, at one time, shall be a Member for Life.

## ARTICLE V.

The President and first Vice President, in the City of New York, Treasurer and Secretaries, of the American Bible Society, shall be, *ex officio*, Honorary Members of this Institution.

## ARTICLE VI.

The affairs of this Society shall be conducted by a President, six Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and fifty Managers, of whom none shall be less than twenty-one, or more than forty years of age. One half of the whole number of the Managers shall go out of office at the expiration of each year, but shall be re-eligible.

## ARTICLE VII.

The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of November, at which time the Annual Report shall be presented by the Board, and an election of Officers and Managers shall take place for the ensuing year; and in case of failure to elect the whole number of Managers at such Annual Meeting, the Board of Managers, elected at such meeting, shall have power to fill all vacancies.

## ARTICLE VIII.

The Board of Managers shall meet at least once every month; shall fill their own vacancies; make their own By-Laws; call their own Meetings; and, with a majority of two-thirds, call a Special General Meeting of the Society.

## ARTICLE IX.

Every Member of the Society shall be entitled to receive one Bible gratuitously at the time of his subscription.

## ARTICLE X.

Fifteen Members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Society; and seven Managers, including the Officers, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Managers.

## ARTICLE XI.

The Managers shall have the power of constituting such persons as they deem proper Honorary Members of the Society.

## ARTICLE XII.

This Constitution shall not be altered without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting of the Society.

## DOCUMENT B.

## OFFICERS.

From the date of its organization to the present time, the Society has had sixteen Presidents. Those marked thus (\*) served by re-election :

| Presidents               | When elected.       | Term of Service. |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Horatio Gillet,       | September 22, 1823. | 1 year.          |
| 2. Henry Bennett,        | November 22, 1824.  | * 4 "            |
| 3. Wm. Winterton,        | " 17, 1828.         | * 4 "            |
| 4. Oliver E. Cobb,       | " 28, 1832.         | † 1 "            |
| 5. Norman White,         | " 27, 1833.         | * 3 "            |
| 6. Frederick S. Winston, | " 23, 1836.         | * 2 "            |
| 7. Timothy R. Green,     | January 3, 1839.    | 1 "              |
| 8. Alfred Edwards,       | " 15, 1840.         | * 4 "            |
| 9. John Slosson,         | November 20, 1843.  | * 2 "            |
| 10. Wm. P. Buel,         | " 17, 1845.         | * 2 "            |
| 11. A. Robertson Walsh,  | " 22, 1847.         | * 2 "            |

† Mr. Cobb presided in December, 1832, and January and February, 1833; was excused on account of sickness in March and April; and was buried April 28, 1833.

| Presidents.           | When elected.      | Term of Service. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 12. E. H. Blatchford, | November 26, 1849. | 1 year.          |
| 13. Thomas Bond,      | " 20, 1850.        | * 2 "            |
| 14. Henry K. Bull,    | " 22, 1852.}       | 1 "              |
| 15. E. M. Kingsley,   | " 21, 1853.        | * 2 "            |
| 16. Henry Ide,        | " 26, 1855.        | * 2 "            |
|                       |                    | <hr/> 34 years.  |

It has had ten Treasurers, viz. :

|   |               |                 |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Silas Butler, Jr., who served in 1824, |               | 1 year.         |
| 2. Walter M. Smith,                       | " 1825—1835,  | 11 "            |
| 3. Solomon Warriner,                      | " 1836, 1837, | 2 "             |
| 4. George D. Baldwin,                     | " 1838—1840,  | 3 "             |
| 5. Samuel B. Schieffelin,                 | " 1841, 1842, | 2 "             |
| 6. George H. Williams,                    | " 1843—1848,  | 6 "             |
| 7. Wm. A. Smith,                          | " 1849—1852,  | 4 "             |
| 8. James M. Fuller,                       | " 1853,       | 1 "             |
| 9. Henry P. Marshall,                     | " 1854,       | 1 "             |
| 10. Henry Olmsted,                        | " 1855—1857,  | 3 "             |
|   |               | <hr/> 34 years. |

The following gentlemen have held the offices of Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, viz. :

*Corresponding.*

|  |                 |         |
|--|-----------------|---------|
| 1. Frederick Bull, who served in 1824, |                 | 1 year. |
| 2. George A. Dwight,                   | " 1825—1828,    | 4 "     |
| 3. Timothy R. Green,                   | " 1829—1832,    | 4 "     |
| 4. John Slosson,                       | " 1833—1838, }  | 9 "     |
| 6. " "                                 | " 1841—1843, }  |         |
| 5. J. R. Van Rensselaer,               | " 1839, 1840,   | 2 "     |
| 7. E. H. Blatchford,                   | " 1844—1846, }  | 4 "     |
| 9. " "                                 | " 1849, }       |         |
| 8. Geo. N. Titus,                      | " 1847, 1848, } | 3 "     |
| 10. " "                                | " 1850, }       |         |

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 11. H. G. De Forest, who served in 1851, 1852, | 2 years.               |
| 12. Wm. Allen Butler, " 1853—1855,             | 3 "                    |
| 13. C. A. Davison,* " 1856, 1857,              | 2 "                    |
|  | $\overline{34}$ years. |

\* The present incumbent.

### *Recording.*

1. Frederick A. Guion, who served a month, and then exchanged positions with Mr. Bartow in the Board.

|                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| George A. Bartow, who served in 1824, | 1 year.                |
| 2. Marinus Willett, Jr., " 1825,      | 1 "                    |
| 3. Alfred Edwards, " 1826—1839,       | 14 "                   |
| 4. Thomas Bond, " 1840—1845,          | 6 "                    |
| 5. John F. Williams, " 1846—1852,     | 7 "                    |
| 6. F. E. Butler, " 1853, 1854,        | 2 "                    |
| 7. James C. Holden,* " 1855—1857,     | 3 "                    |
|                                       | $\overline{34}$ years. |

\* The present incumbent.

## DOCUMENT C.

### COMMITTEES.

At a meeting of the Board, held November 13, 1823, a Nominating Committee, which had been appointed at a previous meeting, reported names for the following committees for 1824, viz. :

Committee on Bible Societies; that is, Auxiliaries (see Art. 3 of Constitution), Purchasing, Finance, Distributing, and Committee of Arrangements.

*For 1825 and 1826.*—Only two committees are mentioned, viz.,

Purchasing and Sunday School.

*For 1827 and 1828.*—Purchasing Committee and Finance Committee. (This committee in 1828 being composed of volunteers.)

*For 1829 and 1830.*—Three standing committees were appointed, viz.:

Auxiliary, Purchasing, and Finance.

*For 1831.*—Auxiliary, Purchasing, and Finance Committees, and two Committees on Applications; one on those from within the bounds of the “New York” and the Southern Sunday School Unions, and one on applications from “abroad.”

*For 1832.*—Auxiliary, Purchasing, and Finance Committees, and a Committee on Applications were appointed; to which in January (17th) were added, for the first time, ward committees (for fourteen wards), and in May (3d) committees for the several churches represented in the Board; but neither of the two latter became at this time standing committees.

*For 1833.*—Auxiliary, Purchasing, Finance, and Publishing Committees, and Committees on Applications, Humane and Criminal Institutions, and Military Posts, with fifteen ward committees; to which in January (3d) was added a Printing Committee “for the ensuing year.”

*For 1834.*—After laying on the table a plan for “condensing the standing committees,” the following were appointed, viz.:—Auxiliary, Purchasing, Finance, and Printing and Publishing Committees; Committees on Applications, on Humane and Crim-

inal Institutions, on Military Posts, on Naval Stations, on Vacancies, on Arrangements; and fifteen ward committees.

*For 1835.*—All the foregoing, except Committee of Arrangements, were appointed, with the addition of Committee of Ways and Means, and Emigrant Committee, which latter had been appointed as a special committee in March (7th) preceding.

*For 1836 and 1837.*—The same committees were appointed—in the latter year for sixteen wards.

*For 1838.*—The same, but for seventeen wards.

*For 1839.*—The Auxiliary Committee was discontinued, and one “Committee on Naval Stations and Military Posts” appointed. The rest as before.

*For 1840.*—Committees of Ways and Means, Finance, Applications, Humane and Criminal Institutions, Military Posts, Naval Stations, Vacancies, Printing and Publishing, Emigrant, and a Marine Committee, with associates from the Marine Bible Society; seventeen Ward Committees; an Episcopal Church Committee of nine; a Methodist Church Committee of four; a Baptist Church Committee of one; and committees for thirty-five individual churches, appointed by Committee of Ways and Means, and making their reports to it.

*For 1841.*—The same committees were appointed, but the “Marine and Emigrant” were united, with associates from the Marine Bible Society as before.

*For 1842–43–44.*—The same committees and ar-

rangement, with the addition of "Committee on Public Meetings and Sermons."

*For 1845.*—The same, with the further addition of "Committee on Special Distribution" ("chiefly to resident and emigrant foreigners").

*For 1846.*—The same committees; but the Committee on Special Distribution took the title of "Emigrant Committee," and was disjoined from the "Marine," which latter continued to have associates from the Marine Bible Society until the close of 1849.

*For 1847.*—The same committees, with the addition of an "Agency Committee" (for city distribution), and an Eighteenth Ward Committee.

*For 1848 and 1849.*—The same committees and arrangement.

*For 1850 annually to 1854.*—The same, with the addition of "Committee on Supply of the Destitute Resident Population;" and an increase in the number of ward and church committees.

*For 1855-56-57.*—The same, with the addition of an "Auditing Committee," and the change of title of the "Purchasing Committee" to that of "Purchasing and General Distribution Committee," and the mode of constituting it defined by a special by-law.

They now stand as follows, viz.:

Committee of Ways and Means; on Supply of Destitute Resident Population; Marine; Emigrant; on Humane and Criminal Institutions; on Naval



Stations; on Military Posts; Printing and Publishing; on Applications; on Vacancies; on Public Meetings and Sermons; Purchasing and General Distribution; Auditing; Finance; twenty Ward Committees (for twenty-two wards); an Episcopal Church Committee; a Methodist Church Committee; and committees for between fifty and sixty individual churches.

The standing committees down to 1845 were either nominated by a committee and elected, or nominated by the President, and approved by the Board; but for that year, and since, all committees (except Church Committees) have been appointed by "the Chair," unless on special motion. The President of the Society is, *ex officio*, a member of all the standing committees, the duties of which are thus defined in the last edition of the by-laws:

#### DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

##### COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.<sup>1</sup>

To have the Bible Cause presented to all the congregations of the various religious denominations represented in the society, for the purpose of raising funds; to appoint Church Committees from among the members of the Board, who shall make collections in the churches to which they shall be assigned.

##### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

To collect the annual dues of members, procure new members, and solicit and collect donations and subscriptions.

##### PURCHASING AND GENERAL DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE.

To purchase and deliver all books issued by the society, and take charge of the sales and gratuitous distribution at the depos-

itory. They shall have power to make donations not exceeding one hundred dollars in value.

COMMITTEE ON SUPPLY OF THE DESTITUTE RESIDENT POPULATION.

To attend to the distribution of the Scriptures among the destitute city population, and the supplying of hotels.

COMMITTEE ON HUMANE AND CRIMINAL INSTITUTIONS.

To visit all such institutions in the city, and see that they are kept well supplied with the Sacred Scriptures.

COMMITTEE ON APPLICATIONS.

To receive all applications for donations from others than families in the city, during the recess of the Board, and, in case of emergency, to grant them.

MARINE COMMITTEE.

To attend to the distribution of the Scriptures among seamen and boatmen, and to furnish steamboats and the shipping in the harbour with a suitable supply of Bibles and Testaments, for the use of their crews and passengers; also, to supply the marine hospitals.

EMIGRANT COMMITTEE.

To attend to the distribution of the Scriptures among emigrants.

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL STATIONS.

To visit the naval stations, and naval vessels in the harbour of New York, and receive all applications from them for Bibles and Testaments, and see that they are supplied.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY POSTS.

To visit the military posts in the harbour of New York, and city recruiting stations, and receive all applications from them for Bibles and Testaments, and see that they are kept supplied.

## WARD COMMITTEES.

To supply destitute families in their respective wards with the Bible, and destitute children, who can read, with a copy of the New Testament; and also to see that a supply of Bibles and Testaments for distribution is kept under the charge of the chairman of the ward committee, or of the tract missionary of the ward; their monthly distribution to be regularly reported to the Board.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SERMONS.

To make arrangements for the anniversary and other public meetings, and sermons designed to promote the objects of the society.

## PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

To attend to the printing of the society, and to prepare, and cause to be inserted in the newspapers of the city, such communications relative to the society and its operations, as may, from time to time, appear calculated to interest the Christian public in its behalf.

## COMMITTEE ON VACANCIES.

To nominate candidates to fill all vacancies which may occur in the Board, first satisfying themselves that such candidates are of good Christian standing, and that they are willing to serve.

## AUDITING COMMITTEE.

To audit the Treasurer's accounts, and all other bills and accounts, before being presented to the Board for payment.

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DOCUMENT D.

## FINANCES.

The smallness of the Society's receipts at the first, and their gradual increase with the increase of its work, are fully shown in connection with its

issues, and the various objects of its labours, in the annexed table (Document E); but the statement thus given does not exhibit the processes by which the funds were obtained.

The Finance Committee, appointed at the first meeting, was aided in its duties by every member of the Board, each one of whom was provided with a small book for the purpose of recording the names of such annual subscribers and donors as he might obtain; and by the earnest members of the original Board many names and donations were obtained and reported at the monthly meetings in 1824. In the memorandum books of the Officers and Managers the names of annual members and donors lay scattered, until, in the fall of 1824, they were collected and recorded by order of the Board, and the number of subscription books reduced to six, to be used by members in rotation. In 1825-6-7-8, the Society was active, and through the strenuous efforts of the Board, the receipts, though comparatively small, steadily increased. For this object, committees were appointed, from time to time, to "visit the Sunday schools of the city with a book, and engage the young men as members," including "a committee of two, to visit the village of Brooklyn (whose Sunday schools were furnished with Bibles by this Society), to solicit, and if practicable, form a plan for annual funds from that quarter;" and a subscription book was left with Moses Allen to solicit aid from Sunday School No. 63, at New Utrecht.

The city of New York was also divided into districts, and committees appointed to visit them (see page 20). Many of the members of the Board volunteered their services in these labours, which were arduous and sometimes discouraging.

The Finance Committee for 1829 was composed entirely of volunteers, and in this year the first instance occurs of the members of the Board pledging themselves in advance to obtain a certain number of subscribers, or an equivalent in funds. This was repeated in 1830, and has often been practised since. In 1832 the old plan of each member carrying a subscription book was again adopted, and forty books ordered; the individual responsibility of members being urgently pressed upon them in this connection. In this year, also, church committees were first appointed, and such appointments were renewed by the Board from year to year, until, in 1840, on the suggestion of the Committee of Ways and Means, which had been organized in 1835, that committee was authorized by the Board to appoint general and individual church committees annually, and receive reports and estimates from them, which course is still pursued. This measure seemed to complete the necessary financial agencies of the Board. Material for circulation, in the form of annual reports, or circulars containing abstracts of the labours and necessities of the Society, was from time to time furnished to the Committee of Ways

and Means, and to the Finance Committee, for use in the discharge of their duties.

By the instrumentalities thus arranged, almost all the funds of the Society have been raised; a few legacies of small amount, and a few donations from without our limits, being excepted. Among the latter may be named a donation of \$50, in 1830, from the Young Men's Bible Society of Brooklyn, organized by a committee of our Board in 1827.

In this department, so far as recorded, only two contributions "in kind" have been made; one being a donation through the Treasurer, in 1826, of two dozen of Ritter's razor-strops, given by the maker; and the other, a donation in 1837, from Mr. Rand, of six engravings of Lord Bexley, President of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

The following is the form of a bequest to the Society:

I give and bequeath to my Executors the sum of —— dollars, in *trust*, to pay the same to the person who, when the same shall be payable, shall act as Treasurer of the New York Bible Society, formed in the City of New York, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-three, to be applied to the charitable purposes and uses of the said Society.

DOCUMENT E.—Table of annual distribution in the various departments of the Society's work; the total number of volumes issued in each year; the receipts of the Society from sales; with its total receipts from all sources.

| Date. | Human and Criminal Institutions. | Naval Stations. | Military Posts. | Marine Committee. | Prisoners Committee. | Ward Committees. | City Clergy. | Supply of Resident Population. | Sunday and Industrial Schools. | Hotels. | Sundries. | Sales at Depository. | Total Vols. Issued. | Receipts from sales at Depository, and by Agents. | Total Receipts. |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1824. | .....                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 583                            | .....   | .....     | .....                | 683                 | .....   | \$273 00        |
| 1825. | .....                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 1,785                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 1,785               | .....   | 480 04          |
| 1826. | .....                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 1,813                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 1,813               | .....   | 551 09          |
| 1827. | .....                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,248                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 2,248               | .....   | 772 57          |
| 1828. | .....                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 3,361                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 3,361               | .....   | 804 72          |
| 1829. | 300                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 4,130                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 4,130               | .....   | 1,482 50        |
| 1830. | 50                               | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 5,340                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 5,340               | .....   | 1,169 12        |
| 1831. | 325                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 11,023                         | .....   | .....     | .....                | 11,023              | .....   | 1,232 73        |
| 1832. | 341                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 8,085                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 9,763               | .....   | 2,232 41        |
| 1833. | 354                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,346                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 5,773               | .....   | 1,358 09        |
| 1834. | 401                              | 334             | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 1,156                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 5,932               | .....   | 1,643 91        |
| 1835. | 454                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 30                             | .....   | .....     | .....                | 2,180               | .....   | 4,014 72        |
| 1836. | 715                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 181                            | .....   | .....     | .....                | 17,380              | .....   | 5,425 43        |
| 1837. | 508                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 440                            | .....   | .....     | .....                | 9,289               | .....   | 3,518 43        |
| 1838. | 1,506                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 3,331                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 16,186              | .....   | 6,738 99        |
| 1839. | 3,339                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 197                            | .....   | .....     | .....                | 10,363              | .....   | 3,861 61        |
| 1840. | 725                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 613 +                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 11,685              | .....   | 5,901 12        |
| 1841. | 925                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,066 +                        | .....   | .....     | .....                | 14,644              | .....   | 8,744 97        |
| 1842. | 718                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,066 +                        | .....   | .....     | .....                | 9,908               | .....   | 5,837 71        |
| 1843. | 666                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,254                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 9,821               | .....   | 6,369 63        |
| 1844. | 1,008                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,603                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 13,881              | .....   | 7,071 52        |
| 1845. | 783                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,432                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 11,352              | .....   | 7,732 35        |
| 1846. | 1,189                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,237                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 19,233              | .....   | 6,943 81        |
| 1847. | 872                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,908                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 60,859              | .....   | 28,725 37       |
| 1848. | 716                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,430                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 46,800              | .....   | 20,845 96       |
| 1849. | 716                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,332                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 66,738              | .....   | 27,680 68       |
| 1850. | 1,560                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 1,878                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 86,579              | .....   | 33,838 11       |
| 1851. | 1,768                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 4,041                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 102,125             | .....   | 33,621 54       |
| 1852. | 931                              | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 2,614                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 131,821             | .....   | 42,126 54       |
| 1853. | 3,278                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 782                            | .....   | .....     | .....                | 132,329             | .....   | 30,821 35       |
| 1854. | 2,903                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 511                            | .....   | .....     | .....                | 34,762              | .....   | 31,755 59       |
| 1855. | 2,887                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 4,750                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 50,901              | .....   | 14,598 75       |
| 1856. | 5,093                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 8,326                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 1,716               | .....   | 57,604          |
| 1857. | 4,610                            | .....           | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 5,767                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 7,694               | .....   | 17,193 00       |
|       |                                  | 807             | .....           | .....             | .....                | .....            | .....        | .....                          | 5,189                          | .....   | .....     | .....                | 62,865              | .....   | 21,735 44       |
|       |                                  |                 |                 | 13,849            | 10,467               | .....            | .....        | 8,708                          | 2,767                          | 71      | .....     | 7,676                | 67,920 +            | 4,053 33  | 18,712 44 2     |

† In part only.

‡ Total Issues in thirty-four Years, 1,140,380 Volumes.

§ Total Receipts in thirty-four Years, \$355,589 29.

## DOCUMENT F.

## SPECIAL GRANTS

MADE TO SABBATH SCHOOLS IN VARIOUS STATES AND TERRITORIES, AND ABROAD, FROM 1829 TO 1843, INCLUDING A FEW CITY GRANTS.

1829.

|   | Bibles. | Test's. |
|---|---------|---------|
| To a "very destitute" S. S. at Rye, Westchester Co., N. Y. - - - - -  |         | 50      |
| S. S. at Sawpits, in the town of Rye - -  |         | 50      |
| " at East Hunter, Greene Co., N. Y., "on the Catskills" - - - - -   |         | 18      |
| " at Hackensack, N. J., by Mr. Hague -  |         | 50      |
| " at Lexington, Greene Co., N. Y. - -   |         | 18      |
| " at Paterson, N. J., "which began in January with sixteen scholars," and in October had 200, by Mr. C. P. Jacobs - - | 20      | 50      |
| " at White Plains and Greensburgh, by Rev. Chester Long - - - - -   |         | 72      |
| " at Marlborough, Ulster Co., N. Y., "as premiums," by E. Pardee, Sup't - -   | 12      | 8       |
| " in "Dr. Fisher's Church," Paterson, N. J.   | 10      | 25      |

1830.

|   |  |    |
|---|--|----|
| To S. S. in "Elder Daniel Lewis' Congregation," at Paterson, N. J. - - - - -  |  | 50 |
| " at Sing Sing, by request of Messrs. L. Bleecker and S. H. Cone - - - -  |  | 50 |
| " at North Hardiston, N. J., by Rev. E. R. Fairchild - - - - -  |  | 50 |
| " on Governor's Island - - - - -  |  | 25 |
| " at Saugerties, Ulster Co., N. Y. - -  |  | 40 |
| " at Cold Spring, Putnam Co., N. Y., raised and sustained and partly supplied by some students from West Point Military Academy - - - - - |  | 50 |



Bibles. Test's.

|  |    |     |
|--|----|-----|
| To S. S. at Sawpits, Westchester Co., N. Y., by<br>Rev. N. C. Saxton - - - - -   |    | 50  |
| “ “in a destitute place near Palmyra,<br>Wayne Co., N. Y.,” by C. L. Roberts -   | 2  | 20  |
| “ at Sloansville, Schoharie Co., N. Y., by<br>Mr. Wm. Gooding - - - - -  | 5  | 30  |
| “ at Quincy, Ill., of about 100 scholars,<br>which had been in operation three years<br>without being able to procure a single<br>Testament, by H. H. Snow - - - - | 10 | 100 |
| “ at Jacksonville, Ill. - - - - -  |    | 50  |

## 1831.

|   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| To S. S. seven miles from Morristown, N. J.,<br>“where the prayer meetings of the S. S.<br>are the only religious privileges of the<br>neighbourhood” - - - - - | 10 | 20  |
| “ of Baptist Ch., Cairo, Greene Co., (on<br>application of Rev. Thomas Stokes) -  | 5  | 40  |
| “ in Ripley, Chautauque Co., N. Y. -  | 5  | 25  |
| Rutherford Co. (N. C.) S. S. Union, to be<br>used in their S. S. (on application of J.<br>Forman) - - - - -   |    | 200 |
| To S. S. on an island in the river St. Lawrence<br>(S. & S. Richards) - - - - -   |    | 40  |
| “ in New London, Conn. - - - - -  |    | 50  |
| “ in the town of Neversink, Sullivan Co.<br>(on application of Erastus Smith) -   |    | 60  |
| Baptist S. S., Oyster Bay (Rev. Mr. Earle) -  | 6  | 6   |
| S. S. at Erie, Penn. (by Rev. S. H. Cone) -   |    | 50  |
| “ at Sawpits, N. Y. (on appl'n of G. Sharp)   |    | 18  |
| Coloured Charity School in Pub. S. No. 10,<br>containing about 300 scholars (some<br>aged and infirm), on appl'n of J. H.<br>Taylor - - - - -                   | 12 | 50  |

|  | Bibles. | Test's. |
|--|---------|---------|
| To Sunday and Infant School at Harlem - -  | 6       | 12      |
| S. S. in Glasgow, Ulster Co. - - -   |         | 25      |
| “ in the town of Esperance, Schoharie Co.,<br>N. Y. - - - - -  |         | 32      |
| Key West (appl'n of Floyd Smith) - -   | 25      |         |
| S. S. at Devil's Half Acre, Greene Co. -   | 6       | 20      |
| “ in Albany, N. Y., that had been refused<br>by the Co. Society (“Elder Welsh's”) -                        | 25      |         |
| N. B. In the next month they returned thanks,<br>and asked for twenty-five more (not<br>granted) - - - - - |         |         |
| To S. S. in Haverstraw, Rockland Co. - -   | 6       | 20      |

## 1833.

|   |    |       |
|---|----|-------|
| To S. S.'s in Fayetteville and Hartsville, Onon-<br>daga Co., N. Y. - - - -   | 20 | 75    |
| S. S. at Fishkill Landing (St. Ann's Church,<br>on appl'n of John Pintard) - -  | 25 | 25    |
| “ at Oyster Bay, L. I. - - - -  |    | 12    |
| D. Lawrence, for use of a Bethesda, or Orphan<br>Asylum, at Pike, Alleghany Co., N. Y.  | 10 | 20    |
| S. S. at Wappinger's Creek, Dutchess Co. -  | 10 | 37    |
| “ Dayton, Ohio (Jas. S. Young) - -  | 12 |       |
| Soldiers at Fort Dawson, Ark. Ter. - -  | 12 |       |
| Bethel Union, for destitute sailors at prayer<br>meetings - - - - -   | 25 |       |
| S. S.'s in Lower Canada, Rev. Wm. R. Hoyt<br>“ Wilberforce Col'd Free School in Bermuda”<br>(Mrs. J. Holt), and Bibles for aged<br>Christians - - - - - |    | 1,000 |
| S. S. in Morris Co., N. J. - - - -  | 30 |       |

## 1834.

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| To (D. Lawrence) Bethesda, or Orphan Asylum,<br>Pike, Alleghany Co., N. Y. - - | 5 | 30 |
|--|---|----|

|   | Bibles. | Test's. |
|---|---------|---------|
| To S. S. at Hoboken (Mr. Rand) - - -  | 15      | 15      |
| “ in Michigan - - - - -   |         | 25      |
| “ in Mississippi - - - - -  |         | 30      |
| Orphan Asylum, Buffalo - - - -  | 12      | 24      |
| Soldiers at Tampa Bay, Fla. - - -   | 25      | 100     |
| S. S. of St. Matthew's Ch., Jersey City -   |         | 50      |
| “ at Holmdel, N. J. - - - - -   |         | 50      |
| Exploring Expedition - - - - -  | 50      | 400     |
| S. S. in Woodbridge, N. J. (J. R. Church) -                                       | 25      |         |
| “ in N. J. - - - - -  |         | 12      |
| “ of French adults and children, Platts-<br>burg, N. Y. (Mr. Boake) - - - -       | 10      | 50      |
| “ on the island of “ Cananacut,” R. I., and<br>at Cow Hill (Rev. Mr. Vinton - - - | 40      | 100     |
| “ at Hallett's Cove, L. I. (Epis. S. S.) -  | 6       | 20      |

## 1839.

|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| To S. S. (Isaac Moses) in behalf of ladies of Heb.<br>Congregation, Crosby Street - - - | 25 |    |
| Rev. Mr. Vinton, Providence, R. I. - - -  | 20 | 60 |

## 1840.

|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| To S. S. (Rev. Mr. Clark) Paterson, N. J. -   | 25 |  |
| Rev. F. Vinton, for Church of the Ascension,<br>Wakefield, R. I., one quarto and ten min-<br>ion Bibles - - - - - | 11 |  |
| G. Nathan, for Jewish S. S. - - - -   | 25 |  |
| S. S. in Rockland Co. (col'd) - - - -   |    |  |

## 1841.

|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| To Fort Madison, Iowa Ter. - - - -            | 6  | 40 |
| S. S. of Ref. Dutch Ch., Grand Rapids, Ill. - | 25 | 50 |

## 1843.

|                                    |    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|----|
| To S. S., Leesville, N. J. - - - - | 25 | 40 |
|------------------------------------|----|----|





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